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Venturia

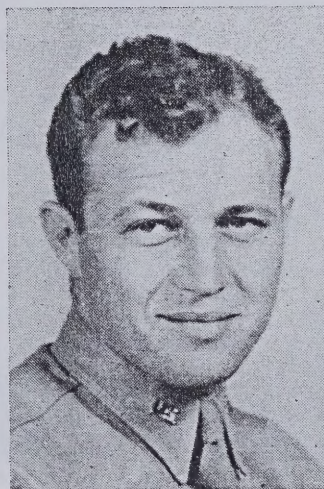
1901

1951

In Memoriam

Herbert J. Joachim

Address: Greenway, South Dakota.
Entered Service: June 8, 1942.
Branch of Service: Quartermaster Corps.
Theatre of Operations: Southwest Pacific.
Decorations: Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal.
Rank: Technician 5th Grade.
Killed in Explosion November 1, 1943.

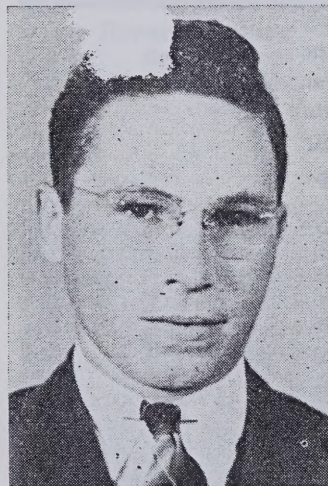


Wayne A. Kretschmar

Address: Venturia, North Dakota.
Entered Service: March 27, 1941.
Branch of Service: Army Air Corps.
Theatre of Operations: European.
Decorations: Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart.
Citation: Distinguished Unit Badge.
Rank: 2nd Lt. Co-Pilot.
Killed in Action May 31, 1944.

Karl Pfeifle

Address: Venturia, North Dakota.
Entered Service: June 5, 1942.
Branch of Service: Navy.
Theatre of Operations: European.
Decorations: Good Conduct Medal, Silver Star, Purple Heart.
Rate: Fireman First Class.
Killed in Action September 10, 1943.



We honor these young Venturia men who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II.



87-1235

To the early sturdy pioneers of Venturia and vicinity and all their posterity, this book is reverently dedicated.

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FOREWORD

This 50th Anniversary book we dedicate to the pioneers of Venturia and vicinity in the hope that these pages may bring pleasure in retrospection as they recall to mind the early day incidents in this community. We honor these pioneers to whom we are indebted for the privileges we enjoy today. We congratulate sons and daughters of these pioneers on their glorious heritage.

We, the Anniversary Club, wish to take this opportunity of saying "Thank You" for loyal support and for invaluable assistance by pioneers and others in preparing our Anniversary.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE OFFICERS



Howard Breitling
Secretary

Berthold Schnabel
Chairman

Leo Weisser
Treasurer

GENERAL ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Top row, left to right—Gust Schleppe, Joachim Ritter, Aaron Bertsch, Emil Dockter,
Front row, left to right—Calvin Dockter, August Haupt, Mary Kretschmar, Arthur
Tesky, Ephraim Schrenk.

THE HISTORY OF VENTURIA

The village of Venturia in McIntosh County was founded fifty years ago with the coming of the railroad. It's townsite includes the S½ of SE¼ of Section 10 and the NE¼ of Section 15 in Township 129 North, Range 71 West. It is located nine miles west and two miles south of Ashley, the county seat. The Pollock branch of the "Soo Line" passes through the town, and state highway number 11 runs two miles to the north. The elevation is 2,072 feet. The town lies in a group of rolling hills on land once the homestead of Michael Tesky and Philip Huber.

The railroad came through this country in 1901, and the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company acquired the land and had it surveyed and platted for a town which was then located. The next question was a name for the new town. There was quite a controversy between some of the prominent men of the town, but no decision was made until the matter was settled by Mr. J. H. Wishek. It seemed that just outside of the town there had been a wreck and freight cars lay overturned on their sides. One of the cars bore the name "Ventura", possibly from far-off Ventura, California. Mr. Wishek suggested the name "Venturia" for the new town and it was so decided.

The first settlers were Michael Tesky, Jacob Hochstetter and Jacob Wiedmann. Jacob Hochstetter was depot agent for a time. Many residences were built and various business places were established through the years, and the town has had a steady, healthy growth until today in 1951, Venturia is a thriving little town of 200 population with a grade school, but no high school. Their students attend the Ashley High School.

The first building in the town was a store called the Bazaar, put up by Jacob Wied-

mann. It was later used for storage until just recently, when it was razed. The next fall another store was built by Jacob Hochstetter and the same year the first elevator was built by Victoria Elevator Company.

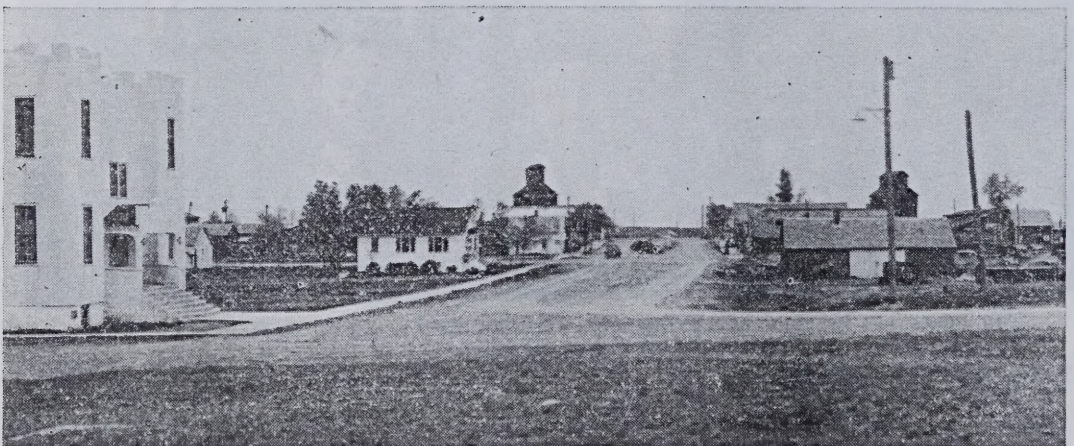
It is interesting to note that the post office of Venturia has been run by Jacob Wiedmann and his brother, John Wiedmann, ever since it's establishment in 1901 (except for a few months in 1915, when Balthaser Iszler held the office) until the spring of 1950 when Mr. John Wiedmann was retired. Now the post office is held by Mr. Wiedmann's son-in-law, Mr. Emil Sayler.

The first school was held in the northern half of the village hall, and was taught by a negress by the name of Mattie B. Anderson. Some of the first pupils were: Paulina Dockter, Maggie Dockter, Matilda Hochstetter, John Hochstetter, Florence Wiedmann and Elizabeth Schnabel.

The Baptist church was first organized in 1903 and the first preacher was Reverend Matzke. The first burial from this church was for Mrs. Gottfried Dobler.

The first couple married in Venturia was Fred Rott and Lydia Hochstetter. The first death was that of Wilhelmina Rott, daughter of George Rott.

Venturia now boasts of the following business places: Wiedmann Hardware, Farmers Union Cream Station, Red Owl Store, E. J. Schrenk General Merchandise, Tesky Garage, Engel Cafe and Soft Drinks, two grain elevators, two recreation parlors, Haupt's Cafe, Venturia Lumber Co., Schnabel Garage, Schnabel & Dockter Blacksmith, Standard Oil Service Station, Phillips 66 Service Station, Barber Shop, Schnabel Hardware, Schnabel Harness & Shoe Repair Shop, Joachim Implement Shop and Stroh Dray Line.



Present Day Main Street — 1951

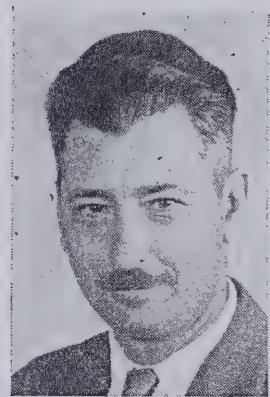
VENTURIA TOWN BOARD AND OFFICIALS



Walter Dockter
Trustee



Calvin Dockter
Trustee
Chairman Town Board



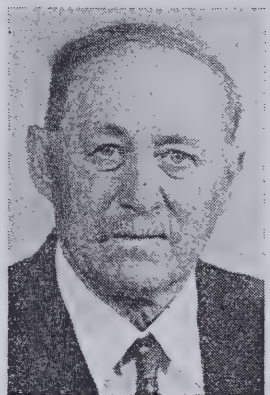
Edward Harak
Trustee



August Haupt
Treasurer



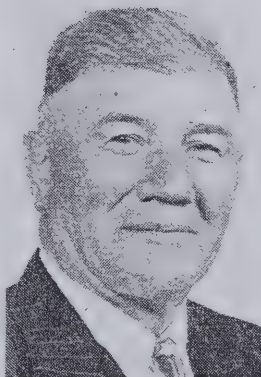
Ephraim Schrenk
Town Clerk



John Wiedmann
Assessor



Ephraim Diede
Marshal



William Miller
Justice of the Peace



Rheinhold Ritter
Deputy Marshal

VENTURIA SCHOOL

The Venturia School had its origin in the farm home of Jacob Wiedmann Sr., one half mile west of Venturia and was taught by Mr. A. E. Ogden, beginning on November 4, 1897 and continuing through the winter months. In 1898 Walter Beveridge conducted classes in the Hanule house; in 1899 Mr. Everson in the Huthmacher house; in 1900 Henry Piper in the Huthmacher house; and in 1901 and 1902 Henry Piper in the Jacob Dockter house. All of these places were east of town. During the winter of 1900 a few months of school were taught by Mr. John Wiedmann in the Phillip Huber farm home.

The first school house erected near the vicinity of Venturia was two and one half miles northeast of the present site of the town in the year of 1905. The few pupils from Venturia attended this little rural school.

During the summer of 1907 a one-room school house was built in Venturia and that fall was the first year school was taught in town. A negress, Miss Mattie B. Anderson, was the teacher.

In the year of 1910 the one room proved too small and the school house was enlarged to two rooms and having two teachers that fall. Mr. Henry Grimes was the first principal.

The little two-room school house served very nicely until the fall of 1922 when it became necessary to have three teachers and also three rooms. An unused so-called "summer kitchen" was purchased and moved into town and served as the third room for the public school.

The summer of 1923 the present school house was built, having four rooms, and in the fall the pupils and three teachers moved into the new building.

When school resumed in the fall of 1924, the enrollment was large enough to employ four teachers and this arrangement of having two grades in a room continued for ten years. The enrollment had gradually decreased and in the fall of 1934 the school board felt that the employment of three teachers could again be adopted and thus it has continued up to the present time.



Present day
Venturia School.
Built in 1923.

THE VENTURIA BAPTIST CHURCH

History reveals that in any pioneering country or community, hardships are encountered in every walk of life, and in every enterprise undertaken. This is also true in the work of a church.

First there is the hindrance of not enough people of one faith to organize and establish a church. Secondly, there are not always enough workers to undertake and care for such Missions. Thirdly, the pioneers them-

selves are not financially able to undergo such work as keeping a pastor in the field. Therefore, out of situations such as these, there has come this arrangement, that one pastor would have to serve a large number of "stations", visiting them perhaps once every two or even three months.

For such a small beginning the present Venturia Baptist church had its beginning. Venturia, before the year 1912, was a station



Pictured above are girl student attending the Venturia School in the year of 1909.



Boy students attending the Venturia School in 1909.

church of the then organized Danzig church. After being served by the pastor of the Danzig church for some time, it became imperative that more churches should be organized, if the work was to expand. The Mother church at Danzig agreed that the Venturia and Kassell stations should organize as a church. Into this union, the Bertsch station, a station of the Jewell Baptist church came, making it a large field in itself for one man to serve. The Rev. August Herringer was called to meet with these three stations on June 10, 1912, for the purpose of being organized as a church. A council of delegates from neighboring duly organized churches met, to hear the reasons for organizing, their testimony of faith and doctrines, and the desire for joining other Baptist churches of like faith. Since that time the Kassell church has been closed, and its members uniting with the church at Venturia.

This church was organized with a total of one hundred and twenty-nine charter members. From the time of its inception to the present date, over five hundred people have held membership in this church. Many have passed away, while others have moved to other parts of the country, taking their

membership with them to join other Baptist churches. The present membership of the Venturia Baptist church is 236.

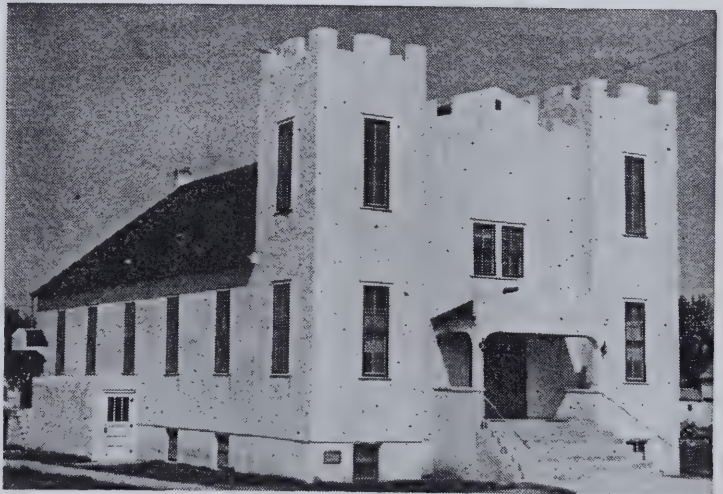
During the thirty-nine years of its existence, six pastors have served this church. The present pastor is the seventh. These men were: the Rev. J. Rummel who came in 1913-1917, and was the first pastor of this church. Rev. J. Reichert came in 1918-1924, Rev. G. A. Alf 1924-1925, Rev. A. Herringer 1927-1934, Rev. A. Guenther 1935-1944, Rev. C. Rempel 1946-1949, Rev. A. F. Dickau 1949—.

This church has had its hardships as well as its untold blessings. In these thirty-nine years it has built three different church edifices, each time building larger buildings to take care of its growing needs. The present beautiful structure was completed and dedicated in October 1949.

The congregation looks forward, with the help of God, to ever expand its work and influence in this community in which it serves. Its doors are always open, and a welcome awaits every one who wishes to worship in its sanctuary.

R. F. Dickau, Pastor

Present day
Venturia Baptist Church.
Built in 1949.





Venturia Baptist Congregation — 1951

VENTURIA C.B.Y.

The Baptist Young People's Union of Venturia, N. Dak. was organized in the year of 1927. Several of the charter members are still residents of Venturia and active church workers.

The first president of the organization was Miss Elizabeth Heringer.

The present officers are: Howard Breiting, president; Alvin Haas, vice president; Myron Bender, secretary; David Miller, treasurer; Lillian Heupel, reporter.

The society meets the first Tuesday of

each month. At present there are thirty-eight members.

The order of business consists of group singing, scripture, prayer, special numbers and discussions of projects whereby the society might be of benefit to the church.

In 1949 the name of the organization was changed from Baptist Young People's Union to Commissioned Baptist Youth.

The aim of the organization is to gain more spiritual knowledge and to further the work of our Lord.

BERTSCH STATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

In the year 1888, a group of people landed at Eureka, S. Dak., with the thought in mind of making a new home. Eureka was the end of the Milwaukee railroad, and from there on the people had to either walk or travel by ox-cart to where they wanted to make their home. Theirs was a hard lot. The first homes had to be built of sod, the virgin soil had to be plowed and seeded, the stones had to be picked, and not always was their reward a good crop for their labor. Poor crops and crop failures added to their hardships.

A group of these early settlers, being of the Baptist faith, were united under the leadership of Jacob Bertsch, Sr. and Peter

by the same pastor. In 1912, this affiliation was dissolved and the Bertsch Station affiliated itself with the Venturia Baptist church, of which it still is a station.

The Bertsch church was founded with about twenty members, of which two charter members are still living. They are: Mrs. Gottlieb Bertsch, Sr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Breitling, Sr.

The following ministers served the church from its inception until it united with Venturia: Rev. August Penske, about 1890-1895, and Rev. John Golling served for only a short time. These two men served this church while it was united with Eureka. Rev. August Kludt, 1896-1901; Rev. Guenther, 1902-1904;



Bertsch
Baptist
Church

Schrenk, Sr., which became the nucleus of the Bertsch Station. A church was organized the same year, and in 1898 the church building itself was erected. During their first year they gathered in the different homes of the church members. During the first years they were united with the Baptist church at Eureka, S. Dak. Then some years later they joined with the Jewell church, being served

Rev. George Burgdorf, 1905-1812. These three men served when Bertsch was affiliated with the Jewell church.

Today there is a Sunday school membership of seventy members. As we look back we can say 'God has been good to us', and has blessed the effort of his people. With the Apostle Paul we say, "Faithful is God who is calling us".

LUTHER LEAGUE

In December 1947, the young people of Zion Lutheran church gathered at the home of Mr. Joachim Ritter and organized a young people's organization, to be known as the Luther League. This organization was formed under the direction of student Herbert G. Schuler of Wartburg Seminary. The first officers elected were: Jeannine Sayler, president; Raymond Meidinger, secretary.

The aim of this organization is to train the members spiritually and provide wholesome recreation for the group.

The organization has always taken a lively interest in Federation Rallies, Conventions and Bible Camp. The summer of 1949 two delegates from the Venturia Luther League attended the National Convention held in Washington.

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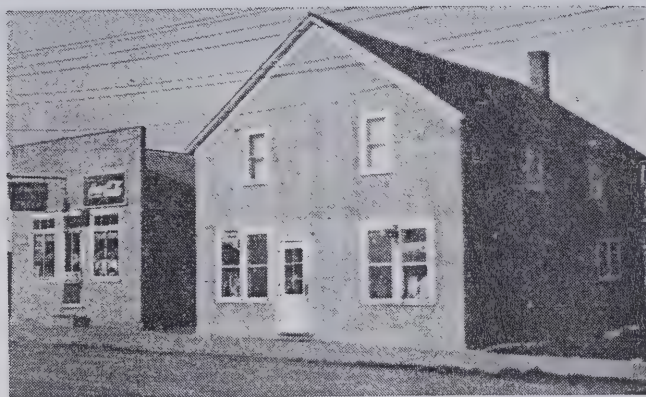
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VENTURIA ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the fall of 1908, at the wish of three families of the Lutheran Faith, Rev. C. H. W. Schulz of Ashley came to Venturia one Sunday afternoon and preached a sermon in the home of Mr. Andrew A. Saylor. Rev. Schulz then very willingly agreed to come to Venturia every second Sunday in the afternoon for services through the coming winter months providing the weather was at all seasonable. By spring a few more families came to the services and the home of Mr. Saylor was considered too small for services and so the little group met in the school house.

In the year of 1910 Rev. Schulz asked the Lutheran congregation to be served by Rev. H. Timmecke then of Eureka, S. Dak. and later of Linton, N. Dak. The congregation agreed to this arrangement and on the fifth of May, 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Timmecke the Venturia Zion Lutheran Church was organized and became affiliated with the Iowa Synod. Officers were elected and Mr. Michael Delzer and Mr. Andrew A. Saylor were the first deacons of the church and Mr. August Haupt, Sr., the first Sunday school teacher.

On November 2, 1913 the newly organized congregation voted to build a church the following spring and with the able help of Rev. Timmecke, as to the drawing of the plans, the few members built the Venturia Lutheran Church. In the late summer of 1914 the church was dedicated and Rev. Timmecke continued to come to Venturia from Linton twice a month to serve the congregation until the fall of 1917. At this time Rev. C. H. W. Schulz took over the pastorate together with two rural churches near Ashley and served until January 1931.

In 1931 the Venturia parish joined with the Danzig parish and together they were served by Rev. T. N. DeGuisne until the fall of 1938. Rev. DeGuisne resided in Danzig. It was during Rev. DeGuisne's pastorate that the Venturia Zion Church became a member of the American Lutheran.

The next ten years the congregation was served by the following pastors: Rev. John Kammerer; Rev. G. T. Kern; Rev. John Goeringer and Rev. John Doering. At the death of Rev. Doering the church experienced the shortage of pastors and Rev. P. A. Hinrichs and Rev. Fred Meier of Eureka and student Herbert G. Schuler acted as supply pastors.

The summer of 1948 was a busy one for the congregation as it was that summer that the parsonage was built and a call for a pastor was voiced. Rev. Lawrence Sailer, of Wartbury Seminary accepted the pastorate and was installed on July 4, 1948 and served the congregations of Venturia and Danzig for sixteen months. During Rev. Sailer's pastorate services in both languages, the German and the English became a regular part of the church. The Sunday school was also revised. Heretofore Sunday school was led by one or two men of the congregation but since, the Sunday school is conducted in four different classes.

This year, after 37 years of services, the interior of the church is being remodeled. In 1946 the basement was enlarged, a kitchen equipped and a dining hall. The heating system was also altered at this time. The work of these projects was done by the members and the financial support given by the Ladies Aid.



Lutheran Church
and Parsonage

Rev. Paul Mall is the pastor at the present time and the officers include: Mr. Andrew A. Sayler and Mr. John J. Ritter, deacons. Mr. Sayler has been a deacon of the church since its organization. Mr. Arthur Sayler, secretary and Sunday school superintendent. Mr. Andrew Dockter, treasurer.

Mr. Henry Bader, Mr. Edward Golz and Mr. Rudolph Haupt, trustees.

Zion Lutheran Church has enjoyed a steady growth until now. May the good Lord, who has guided her in the past, continue to bless her that she may bring forth much fruit.



Group scene at the Lutheran church dedication in 1914. Rev. Lechner can be seen at right in back row. Rev. Timmecke is to the left of Rev. Lechner.

VENTURIA REFORMED CHURCH

The Venturia Reformed Church, better known as the Hoffnungstal Gemeinde, was organized in 1893 at the same time as the Reformed congregations at Ashley, Greenway and Wishek. Eight families founded the church near Venturia. The church record lists these following: Gottlieb and Magdalena Dockter; Jacob and Margaretha Dockter; John and Elisabeth Dockter; Gottlieb Jr. and Christina Dockter; Friedrich and Louise Dockter; Jacob and Magdalene Schlepp; Friedrich and Eva Herbold; and Philipp and Sophia Dockter. Mr. Jacob Schlepp who passed away on October 17, 1950, was the last surviving charter member of the Hoffnungstal congregation. It will be of interest to mention that the last service Mr. Schlepp attended was also the last to take

place in the old church building, a church he helped organize and build and in which he served as deacon from 1907 to 1910.

In the very beginning the first members of the church gathered for services on their farms as they had done previous to their organization when they had been under pastoral care of Rev. U. Reue of Leola, S. Dak. Four years following their organization, their first church was built which served them for 53 years. Rev. Steinecker was the first minister serving the Venturia church. Since he had thirteen congregations in his charge, serving two of them each Sunday, he came to Venturia each seventh Sunday.

Venturia's Reformed Church was first located two miles north and one-half mile east of town and as it proved itself too small



Venturia Reformed Church

Bottom row, left to right—Jacob Stroh and Adam Rudolph, elders.

Middle row, left to right—Emil Dockter and Theopold Dockter, deacons.

Back row, left to right—Edwin Wagner and August F. Dockter, Sunday school teachers.



Old Reformed Church

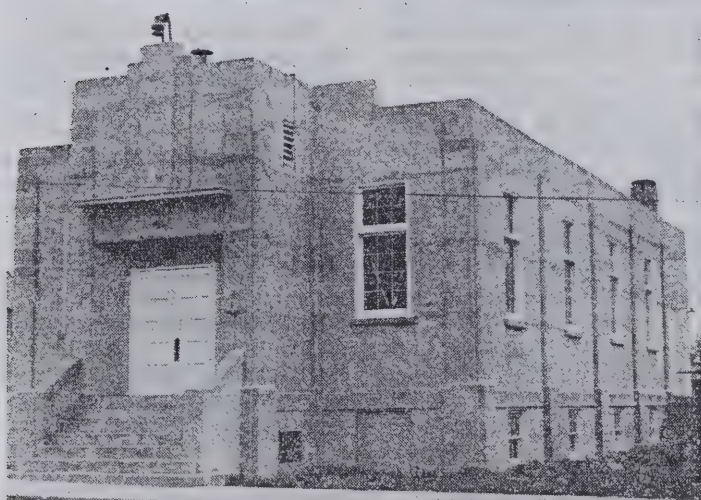
for the growing membership the congregation decided upon a new church. Since many of the members who previously resided on the farm have moved to town, it seemed logical to locate the church in town. Work on this church was begun last June and on October 15, 1950 it was dedicated.

Rev. Steinecker served the Venturia church from 1893 to 1904. Rev. Wm. Landsiedel followed with four years of service: 1905 to 1909. The next minister was Rev. Peter DeBuhr. He stayed for two years, from 1910 to 1912. At this time Rev. Steinecker returned to his old charge serving it for ten

more years until 1922. He was succeeded by Rev. F. W. Herzog. This minister returned to his home country, Germany, after thirteen years of service in 1935. Rev. George E. Wolfe held the pastorate from 1937 to 1942. Rev. K. Krueger being his successor served the Venturia Reformed Church until 1949. All ministers, except the Revs. Wolfe and Krueger, have passed away. The present minister is Rev. Fred Herzog, the son of Rev. F. W. Herzog.

As the congregations organized more and more into parishes, the Ashley Reformed Church charge emerged with four congregations, Venturia belonging to this charge. Up until 1944, worship services with the pastor took place each fourth Sunday. Today as traveling conditions have improved, the congregation gathers for regular worship services each alternate Sunday.

The Venturia Reformed Church belongs to a group of Reformed churches which did not participate in the merger of the Reformed and Evangelical churches in 1934. In spite of many hardships which emerged out of an attitude of resistance towards merger, it has always faithfully adhered to the belief that the church of the Reformation should not be a conglomeration of denominational emphases of Christian faith, but should be simply "church" always standing in the necessity of being reformed.



Present day City Hall in Venturia. A roomy, modern building where most civic, social and community functions take place.

VENTURIA BAPTIST FELICITY SOCIETY



Front row, left to right—Mrs. Arthur Tesky, secretary; Mrs. Alan Haas, Mrs. Arthur Haas, president; Mrs. Enoch Roth, vice president; and Mrs. Edward Miller.

Back row, left to right—Miss Priscilla Haas, Mrs. Leon Haas, Miss Hulda Dockter, Mrs. Aaron Bertsch, Mrs. Arthur Giedt, and Mrs. Daniel Miller.

Not pictured—Mrs. Theophil Haas, treasurer; Mrs. Fred Hoff, Mrs. Rev. Dickau, Mrs. Albert Haas, Mrs. Fred Huber, Miss Priscilla Huber, and Miss Delores Hoff.

A group of ladies gathered in the Baptist church on February 22, 1944, for the purpose of organizing a Missionary Work Society under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. Adolph Guenther. Twelve ladies became charter members and the organization was given the name of The Felicity Missionary Work Society. The first officers elected were: Mrs. Edwin Krause, president; Mrs. Enoch Roth, vice president; Mrs. Leon Haas, secretary and treasurer.

The aim of this organization is for spiritual and social upbuilding of its members and a more systematic plan in aggressive missionary work both at home and abroad.

The order of business consists of scripture reading, praying, singing, and a portion of every meeting devoted to missionary emphasis.

A few of the activities of the society consists of contributions of money, food, and clothing to the Baptist Home for the Aged at Bismarck; the Baptist Children's Home at St. Joseph, Michigan; and also remembering our own Missionary in North Africa, Miss Eleanore Weisenburger.

The Society also helped to raise funds for our present church and aided in the beautification of the church and grounds.

During the seven years of the Society's organization it has raised the sum of \$7,797.69 for missionary, local purpose and benevolences.

The present officers are: Mrs. Arthur Haas, president; Mrs. Enoch Roth, vice president; Mrs. Arthur Tesky, secretary; Mrs. Theophil Haas, treasurer.

VENTURIA BAPTIST LADIES AID



Front row, left to right—Mrs. Wm. Miller, Mrs. John Wiedmann, Mrs. Susan Diede, Mrs. Katherina Bertsch, and Mrs. Jacob A. Bertsch.

Back row, left to right—Mrs. Gottlieb G. Sayler, Mrs. Ephraim Schrenk, treasurer; Mrs. Sam Bender, president; Mrs. Asoph Haas, vice president; Mrs. Katie Haas, secretary, and Mrs. Jacob Schnabel.

In January, 1920, seven women gathered to organize a mission society. The following were present: Mrs. John Reichert, Mrs. John Wiedmann, Mrs. Jacob Schnabel, Mrs. Wm. Miller, Mrs. Jacob Schrenk, Mrs. Christian Miller and Mrs. August Miller.

Mrs. John Reichert was elected president; Mrs. August Miller, secretary; and Mrs. Jacob Schnabel, treasurer.

Three of the charter members are still active: Mrs. John Wiedmann, Mrs. Jacob Schnabel and Mrs. Wm. Miller.

The purpose of this organization is to support and promote the work of the church; to acquire Bible knowledge; to help support missionaries; to foster the spirit of Christian fellowship; and to visit the sick; and to help the needy.

The society meets the second Thursday of each month at the homes of the respective members. The present membership of the organization is eleven. The present officers are: Mrs. Sam Bender, president; Mrs. Asoph

Haas, vice president; Mrs. Adolph Haas, secretary, and Mrs. E. J. Schrenk, treasurer.

This organization celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in June 1945, by giving a program to the public in the church.

This group has always shown interest in worthwhile enterprises. In the past few years many food and clothing packages have been sent to Europe. Tidy sums are annually sent to our Seminary, Old People's Home, Children's Home, and to our Cameroon Mission Field in Africa. The society has been instrumental in many of the improvements of the local parsonage and church. This organization does itself proud by having started the building fund for our present church and purchased the pulpit furniture and other furnishings for the new church.

The society has had good years and lean years but the members labored cheerfully on and in the course of its thirty-one years of existence has raised the sum of \$9,783.23 for missionary, local purposes, and benevolences.

THE BERTSCH LADIES MISSION SOCIETY

On May 17, 1942 a number of ladies assembled at the Bertsch Baptist church, a station of the Venturia Baptist church. At this time it was decided to form an organization to be called The Bertsch Ladies Mission Society. The purpose of this organization was to cultivate a closer bond of fellowship



Bottom row, left to right—Mrs. Christ A. Bertsch, president; Mrs. Gottlieb G. Breitling, secretary; Mrs. Karl J. Bertsch.

Back row, left to right—Mrs. Christ Schrenk, Mrs. Leo Bertsch, and Mrs. August C. Bertsch.

Not pictured—Mrs. Arthur Breitling, treasurer.

among the members; to further a spiritual development; and to support the local church and mission fields. Three times the banner of the Central Dakota Baptist Conference was presented to this organization as an award for the highest number of points gained. The Society meets once every month at the church. The present membership is eight. The order of business consists of scripture, prayer, singing, and discussion of projects, whereby the Society might be a benefit to some institution or person. The Mission Society has had its up's and down's, but no matter how empty the treasury or hard the times, they labored cheerfully on for the good of the church and the community. Each year at Christmas and Easter time, the Society has had the privilege of helping support the Baptist Old People's Home in Bismarck and Children's Home in St. Joseph, Michigan, by sending Christmas and Easter goodies. One hundred and ninety-three relief packages were sent to the foreign countries. During the years the Society raised \$5,296.72 for which \$3,803.83 was spent for mission. The present officers are: Mrs. Christ Bertsch, president; Mrs. Dickau, vice president; Mrs. G. G. Breitling, secretary; Mrs. Arthur Breitling, treasurer.



Venturia's first Livery Stable, built in 1906 by William and Asoph Dohn. Antecedent of the present day garage, the livery stable was to the horse, what the service station is to the car.

VENTURIA LUTHERAN LADIES AID



Bottom row, left to right—Mrs. George Ritter, Mrs. Robert Pfahl, and Mrs. Henry Bader.

Second row, left to right—Mrs. Edward Golz, Mrs. Lenhardt Ritter, secretary; Mrs. Edwin Haupt, and Mrs. John J. Ritter.

Top row, left to right—Mrs. Joachim Ritter, Mrs. Arthur Sayler, president; Mrs. August Haupt, Mrs. Edward Blumhardt, treasurer, and Mrs. Rudolph Haupt, vice president.

ZION LUTHERAN LADIES AID

On July 30, 1939, under the direction of Rev. John Kammerer, eighteen ladies assembled in the Venturia Lutheran church for the purpose to organize a Ladies Aid. The constitution was drawn up by the pastor and the ladies accepted it willingly. The first officers elected were: Mrs. John Ritter, president; Mrs. Rudolph Haupt, vice president; Mrs. Joachim Ritter, secretary and treasurer, an office which she held (as secretary) for nine consecutive years, as treasurer for ten years.

The aim of the organization since its inception has been to help charitable institutions; aid mission fields; and to raise funds for the purpose of remodeling and beautifying the church. To meet this aim the ladies have been active in serving dinners; holding food and fancy-work sales; and stitching quilts for a small fee. The society observed its tenth anniversary by serving a Mother-Daughter banquet and the money taken in was sent to foreign missions. Each year the ladies pack boxes of used clothing for the needy in Europe and donate home-canned food to the Crippled Children's School at Jamestown.

The order of business consists of singing, scripture reading followed by prayer and roll call is always responded to by Bible verses.

Following the order of business projects are discussed whereby the Aid might be a benefit to the church, in institution, or a person. The organization meets the last Thursday of each month; sometimes in the church parlors and often times at the homes of the respective members. A social hour is always observed and a lunch is served at each meeting. The present membership is twelve and the officers to date are as follows: Mrs. Arthur Saylor, president; Mrs. Rudolph Haupt, vice president; Mrs. Lehnhart Ritter, secretary; Mrs. Edward Blumhart, treasurer.

The unselfish devotion of the members of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid have accomplished a great work in the twelve years of its existence. They have not only enriched and strengthened the work of the church but have been a spiritual uplift in the town and community.

BASEBALL

Early records indicate that baseball has been played in Venturia since about 1910. Some of the earliest players were: Paul T. Kretschmar, Arthur Stienecker, Fred Hedtke, C. M. Hunn, Fred Rott and Wm. Ley. The games were played with neighboring towns and rural teams.



The years between 1912 and 1916 were considered "building up years" in baseball history and from then up to the present time baseball and softball have always been a part of Venturia's summer recreation.

Baseball suits for the team were purchased in 1914.

Venturia was always a member of the McIntosh County Baseball League and the year 1928 was a notable one for the team as that year Venturia won the trophy. Some of the players at that time were Xavier Junge, Rheinie Berg, John Hochstetter, Wilbur Linn, Emil Saylor, Adolph Wiedmann, Calvin Hilgemann, Otto and William Kretschmar.

During the late 1930's softball took the place of baseball in town and Venturia developed a strong softball team. The time during World War II there was a lull among the sports in town but quickly taken up again the past five years.

Venturia's softball team entered the Tri-County Tournament each year for the past five years and winning honors for several consecutive years. The names of some of the softball players are: Arthur, Willard and Theophil Tesky, Eugene Weisenburger, Walter Bertsch.

Rev. Lawrence Sailer was a member of the Venturia team in 1948 and 1949.

E. A. Moeckel

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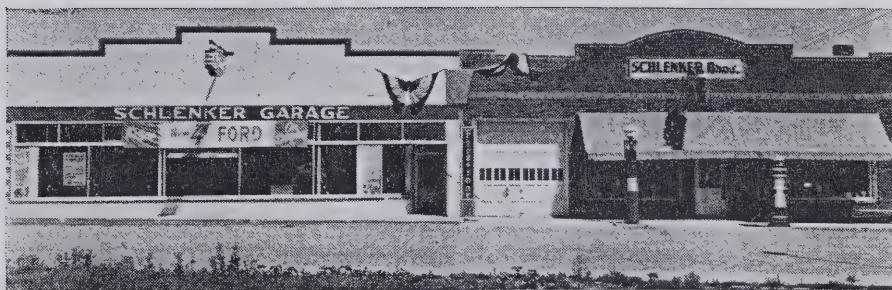
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THE VENTURIA HOMEMAKER'S CLUB

Prior to the year 1936, several sewing clubs had been created in Venturia, flourished and later passed into oblivion. The ladies of the town felt the need of an organization that would provide a little social life and at the same time gain information on promoting a finer home life as well as creating a better community in which to live. And so with this in mind a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. B. J. Schnabel on May 19, 1936 for the purpose of organizing a Homemaker's Club under the direction of the County Extension Agent, Mr. Robert Adams. The object and function of such a club was fully explained by Mr. Adams and then the Venturia Homemaker's Club was founded and officers elected. The first officers were: Mrs. B. J. Schnabel, president; Mrs. Arthur Maethner, vice president; Miss Milly Wiedmann, secretary; Mrs. Arthur Tesky, treasurer. The club's colors are pink and green and the wild rose is the club's flower.

Through the club's fifteen years of existence it has nearly always held the membership of twelve and up to date thirty-one ladies have been affiliated with the club.

The organization has received very helpful information from the Home Extension Specialists on the subjects of foods, clothing, and home management. This information has also been passed on to non-club members thereby aiding the community in a civic way.

Members from this club have served as officers of the County Council and two

members were elected to the office of President of the Council at different times. Twice the County Council chose a member from the Venturia club to represent our county at the State Council meeting held at Fargo each year.

The activities of the club have been many and varied. It has donated to the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Cancer and Heart Fund, Sister Kenny Drive, donated to the Crippled Children's School at Jamestown and to the Orphans Home in Fargo, bought Christmas and Easter Seals, donated books to the school library and sent clothing to the war stricken areas. Several years the club has packed Christmas boxes and delivered them to the poor. The women have also given their time and effort to aiding at Health Clinics and to the Chest X-ray Unit. The club also purchased a war bond.

On the social side the club has entertained at picnics and parties; sometimes for the entire family; sometimes for the men; and often times for non-club ladies. At four different times the club has been hostess to the County Achievement Day.

The tenth anniversary of the club was celebrated at the home of Mrs. Arthur Saylor with a banquet. A huge birthday cake centered the table.

As mentioned before the Venturia Homemaker's Club was organized with the thought of establishing a better home life for our family and with this in mind the club has as its motto "Making Better Homes For Our Youth Of Tomorrow".

YOUNG AMERICAN'S 4-H CLUB

Venturia has one 4-H club which is a girls organization that came into being on September 21, 1946 under the direction of the County Extension Agent, Mr. Larry Iverson.

Thirteen young girls joined the club and voted to call the organization the Young American's 4-H Club. Mrs. Edward Harak kindly consented to be the girls' leader and Mrs. Arthur Saylor offered her assistance. Both ladies were members of the Venturia Homemaker's Club. The girls have been ably guided and let through two years of "Home Management"; two years of "Clothing" projects; and one year on "Foods" by their very capable leaders.

The 4-H girls of Venturia have always eagerly taken their parts in doing their share in County Achievement Days; 4-H Banquets; and County Fairs.

Two girls from this club, Jeannine Saylor and Ramona Haupt were sent as delegates from the county to the 4-H Institute held in Fargo in March of 1949, and Luella Blumhardt represented the county at Conservation Camp on Lake Metigoshe the summer of 1948. Last summer the girls of the club spent a few days at Summer Camp at Sladge Lodge.

The aim of 4-H club work is to teach cooperation, to develop leadership, and to put into practice information acquired. The girls, from the "Young American's 4-H Club" have attained these qualities in the five years of organization and Venturia is very proud of the club's accomplishments.

The present officers of the club are: Ramona Haupt, president, and Georgia Saylor, secretary.

VENTURIA HOMEMAKERS CLUB



Front row, left to right—Mrs. Emil Sayler, vice president; Mrs. Arthur Tesky, Miss Mary Kretschmar, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Edward Harak, president, and Mrs. Calvin Dockter.

Back row, left to right—Mrs. Otto B. Kretschmar, Mrs. Ephraim Schrenk, Mrs. Joachim Ritter, Mrs. Arthur Sayler, and Mrs. Arthur Giedt.

YOUNG AMERICANS 4-H CLUB



Front row, left to right—Bonnie Tesky, Georgia Sayler, and Judy Harak.

Back row, left to right—Ramona Blumhardt, Mrs. Arthur Sayler, assistant leader; Mrs. Edward Harak, leader, and Evangeline Haupt.

VENTURIA BAND

The Venturia Band was organized in the fall of 1912 under the direction of Paul T. Kretschmar having as members older men as well as young boys. The band continued under Mr. Kretschmar's direction for several years and was followed by Mr. Nottingham of Napoleon for a time. About 1920 Mr. McKay of Ashley took over the leadership and Mr. E. E. Gloege also of Ashley then became the band's able leader. In 1929 Venturia found itself without a band and as the town felt the need of some musical recreation the band was revived by two young men of town, namely: Mr. Berthold Schnabel and Mr. Arthur Saylor. This little band was then taken up under the leadership of Mr. Alex Johnstone of Ashley and followed by Mr. Arthur Johnson of Lehr. It was during this time that the Venturia Band was much

in demand playing for different celebrations in nearby towns and also holding weekly street concerts in Venturia.

It was during the summers of the 1930's that the Venturia Band participated in Band Picnics and Conventions and always winning honorable mention.

When World War II came the band suffered greatly and wasn't taken up again until the fall of 1948 but had to discontinue because lack of a leader. However, many of the students from Venturia attending Ashley High School are continuing their musical career with the school band.

This year, 1951, Venturia found itself in need of a band and under the direction of their once before able leader, Mr. Arthur Johnson of Lehr, the Anniversary Band was organized.

MERRY MAIDS CLUB



Front row, left to right—Mrs. Walvin Kaseman, Mrs. Rudolph Haupt, Mrs. Leo Weiser, vice president, and Mrs. Eugene Weisenburger.

Back row, left to right—Mrs. Walter Dockter, Mrs. George Engelhardt, program chairman; Mrs. Lenhardt Ritter, secretary; Mrs. August Haupt, treasurer; Mrs. Oscar Rau, president, and Mrs. Ruben Hummel.

The County Agent, Mr. Andrew F. Bosch, met with a group of women at the home of Mrs. Rudolph Haupt on November 18, 1948, with the purpose of organizing a Homemakers' Club.

Mr. Bosch explained the functions of such a club and the interested group then organized and elected Mrs. Gideon Breitling as the president and Mrs. George Engelhardt as secretary and treasurer.

For two and a half years the club has worked faithfully together to encourage co-operative home projects in "Foods", "Clothing" and "Home Management".

The past year the club has gained five new members and the present officers are: Mrs. Oscar Rau, president; Mrs. Lehnhart Ritter, secretary; and Mrs. August Haupt, treasurer; with Mrs. George Engelhart as program chairman.

SUN BONNET CLUB



Bottom row, left to right—Mrs. Julius Dockter, Mrs. B. J. Schnabel, Miss Mary Kretschmar, vice chairman; Mrs. Arthur Tesky, president; Mrs. George Engelhardt and Mrs. Emil Dockter.

Second row, left to right—Mrs. Walvin Kaseman, Mrs. Joachim Ritter, Mrs. Edward Harak, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Edwin Haupt, Mrs. Alvin Dockter and Mrs. Harold Kaseman.

Third row, left to right—Mrs. Lenhardt Ritter, Mrs. August Haupt, Miss Hulda Dockter, Mrs. Rudolph Haupt, Mrs. Otto A. Dockter, Mrs. Henry Ritter and Mrs. Gustave Schlepp.

Top row, left to right—Mrs. Reinhold Ritter, Mrs. Jacob Kemmet, Mrs. Oscar Rau, Mrs. Ruben Hummel, Mrs. Walter Dockter and Mrs. Eugene Weisenburger.

SUN BONNET CLUB

The ladies of Venturia and vicinity could not just sit idly by and let the men do all the work in shaping and financing the Anniversary Celebration. In their determination to share the responsibilities in making the

event a success the women formed a Sun Bonnet Club.

The object of the club was to be an auxiliary to the men's club and to work hand in hand to make the forthcoming event a success.

VENTURIA WHISKER CLUB



Top row, left to right—Alvin Dockter, Emil Engel, Howard Breitling, Otto Joachim, Reinhold Ritter, Eugene Weisenburger, and Otto A. Dockter.

Fifth row, left to right—Berthold Schnabel, Edward Harak, Leo Weisser, John Wiedmann, Albert Hummel, Gustave Schlepp, and Ruben Hummel.

Fourth row, left to right—George Engelhardt, Joachim Ritter, Clifford Hummel, George Stroh, Edgar Trautmann, Albert Schrenk, and Edwin Dockter.

Third row, left to right—Rudolph Haupt, Edwin Haupt, August Haupt, president; Julius Dockter, Walter Dockter, secretary; Emil Dockter, and Ephraim Schrenk.

Second row, left to right—Gottlieb G. Sayler, Arthur Sayler, Arthur Tesky, Calvin Dockter, and Rudolph Buchholz.

Bottom row, left to right—Alvin Zimmerman, Walvin Kaseman, Harold Kaseman, Aaron Bertsch, and Otto Bertsch.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, PFEIFLE POST NO. 285



Bottom row, left to right—Arthur Schlepp, chaplain; Theophil Tesky, vice commander; August F. Dockter, commander; Willard Tesky, adjutant, and Edmund Dohn, historian.

Middle row, left to right—Nathaniel Weisenburger, Otto Joachim, sergeant-at-arms; Adam Dockter, finance officer; Emil Engel, child welfare; Walter Joachim, and Ruben Hummel.

Back row, left to right—Gideon Heupel, Walter Bertsch, Albert Schrenk, Reinhold Ritter, and Arthur Dockter.

Members not on picture—Albert Dollinger, service officer; Lenard Pfeifle, LaVern Hoff, Ervin Tesky, and Eugene Joachim, who is serving with the U. S. Army.

On October 13, 1948 the Pfeifle Post No. 285 received its charter. There are sixteen charter members of which some have dropped and new ones have been added. Our officers for the first year were as follows: August Dockter, commander; Emil Roth, vice commander; Theophil Tesky, adjutant; Reinhold Ritter, financier; Willard Tesky, chaplain; Walter Bertsch, sergeant-at-arms; Albert Schrenk, post historian; Nathaniel Weisenburger, child welfare.

The present Pfeifle Post was named after Karl Pfeifle of the navy. He entered into service June 5, 1942. It didn't take long for him to leave the states for the European theater of war. In September 10, 1943 he paid the supreme sacrifice for all.

The Pfeifle Post is still a young post. Many worthwhile enterprises are anticipated. A major objective of the American Legion is to be a community service; and to assist the local youth to become a better citizen of the United States.

Our first venture is to build a memorial building for all who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I and II.

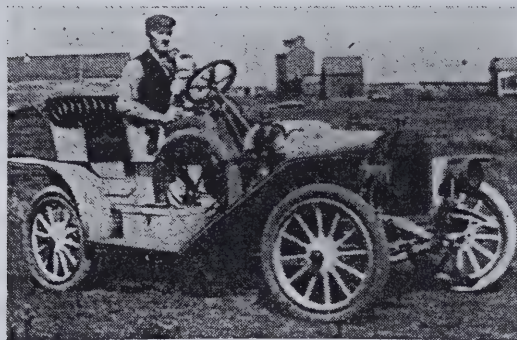
Support your local American Legion.

Present officers: Albert Dollinger, service officer; August Dockter, commander; Theophil Tesky, vice commander; Willard Tesky, adjutant; Otto Joachim, sergeant-at-arms; Adam Dockter, financier; Edmund Dohn, historian; Art Schlepp, chaplain; Emil Engel, child welfare.

— Scenes of Yore —



Threshing time in 1909. Theo. Giedt, owner of the rig, poses on the engine. Seated on the large wheel is John J. Ritter. Others are unidentified.



Scene taken in 1910. Arthur Steinecker at the wheel of an old-vintage "horseless carriage" on Venturia's main street, looking north. Car is a 1910 Buick. Note the right hand drive, rubber bulb horn and spare tire. No top, no doors.



Old time threshers—the Conrad Pfeifle crew including John Golz, Adolph Meidinger, George Pfeifle, Phillip Obenauer, Gottfried Golz and others.

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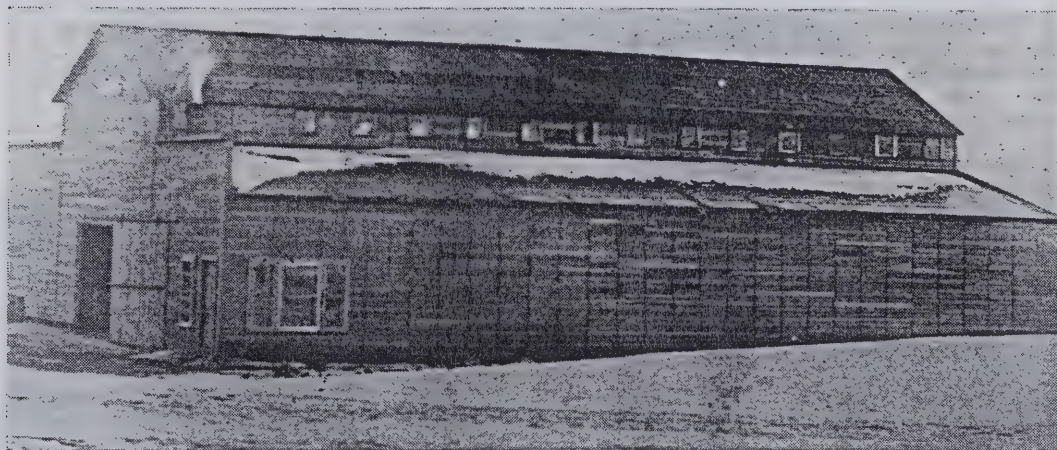


Front row, left to right—Otto A. Dockter, president, and Howard Breitling.

Back row, left to right—Joachim Ritter and August F. Dockter, secretary.



Left to right—Bert Harrison, Mrs. Bert Harrison, Mrs. Ellis Harrison, and Ellis Harrison. Bert Harrison owned the lumber yard shown below. The men are brothers.



The former Harrison and Schlepp lumber yard. Owners were Bert Harrison and Jacob Schlepp, Sr. Picture dates back to about 1907.

VENTURIA COMMERCIAL CLUB



Front row, left to right—Joachim Ritter, president; Theophil Tesky, secretary, and Arthur Tesky, vice president.

Back row, left to right—John J. Ritter, George Stroh, Reinhold Ritter, Eugene Weisenburger, and Arthur Giedt, treasurer.

VENTURIA COMMERCIAL CLUB

The major civic organization of Venturia is the Commercial Club which was organized at the schoolhouse on February 24, 1936. The first officers elected were: Otto Kretschmar, president; Emil Saylor, secretary; Theodore Haas, vice president; August Diede, treasurer.

The object of this organization is to promote the general welfare of Venturia and its vicinity.

Some of the projects sponsored by the club were: the organization of a Rifle Club; building of a kittenball as well as a baseball diamond; furthering means for the upkeep of a band; providing colorful lights for the streets at Christmas time and celebrating Santa Claus Day each year. The club sponsored many a celebration each sum-

mer such as Bargain Days and Trade Days. Several summers the club sponsored Tuesday Prize Nights which were always preceded by a street band concert. The club was also instrumental in having Venturia's streets graveled as well as promoting the improvement and maintainance of main county roads leading into Venturia.

The present officers are: Mr. Joachim Ritter, president; Mr. Rheinie Ritter, vice president; Mr. Theophil Tesky, secretary; and Mr. Arthur Giedt, treasurer.

It was the Commercial Club who instigated the idea of celebrating Venturia's fiftieth anniversary and each member gladly and willingly contributed much of their time and effort towards making this event something to remember.

VENTURIA SOFTBALL TEAM



Bottom row, left to right—James Ritter, mascot, and Ephraim Diede.

Middle row, left to right—Willard Tesky, Raymond Stroh, Arthur Tesky, Adam Dockter, and August Ritter.

Back row, left to right—Oliver Stroh, Clifford Kemmet, Theophil Tesky, Eugene Weisenburger, and Otto Joachim.



An early day lumber yard owned by the North Star Lumber Co.

— Scenes of Yore —



Schlepp and Herbold with their steamer rig, making their fall threshing circuit. J. J. Schlepp is shown on the engine, Fred Herbold on the thresher and August Dockter on the water wagon.



This scene is undated and car unidentified, but is of the right-hand drive type, has rear door, no top and brake handle on outside. The gentlemen posing are Jacob Schlepp, Sr., driver, and Fred Rott, back seat.



Horse drawn threshing machine of 1895 or 96, belonging to Herbold and Schlepp. Shown are Jacob Schlepp, Sr. holding horses, George Dewald, holding fork, Fred Herbold on back of steam engine, and Art Ogden on steamer. Others are unidentified.

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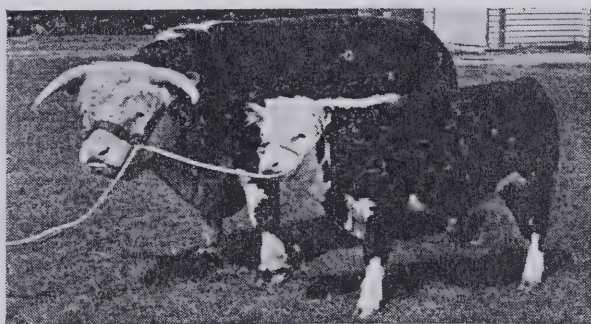
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RUDOLPH JOACHIM

Rudolph Joachim, who resided east of Ashley, was a son of the late Jacob Joachim and grew to manhood living on a farm near Venturia. He was born on June 29, 1923 and was accidentally killed in April of this year. On October 6, 1946 he married Ella Sperle of Ashley and together they made their home on the Sperle farm. Rudolph Joachim was the father of two small daughters, Joyce Jane and Bonnie Kay.



Rudolph Joachim (with and without beard) and wife and child.

When the "Whisker Club" of Venturia's anniversary organization was formed Rudolph immediately joined and at the time of his death already had a nice healthy growth of whiskers. The club mourned his passing and Rudolph's lively manner will be missed during the forthcoming celebration.

MR. AND MRS. LORENZE ENGELHART

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenze Engelhart were both born in Russia. Mrs. Engelhart was born May 15, 1876, and Mr. Engelhart was born October 24, 1878. Mr. Engelhart came to the United States March 23, 1900, and worked for Matt Schatz during the summer of 1900. When seeding was over that spring he worked on the Milwaukee railroad. That, incidentally, was when the Milwaukee tracks were laid from Bowdle. Mr. Engelhart walked 14 miles each Saturday night to the home of Mr. Schatz and Sunday evening walked 14 miles back to work.

In the fall of 1900 he moved to North Dakota and made his home with Mr. Sylvester Glatt, five miles west and one and one-half miles north of Venturia. Here Mr. Engelhart met his bride, Miss Katherine Glatt, and they were married on November 26, 1900. That winter they spent with Mr. Glatt. The only means of heating the house during this winter was with dried up manure and straw. During the spring of 1901 he homesteaded a quarter of land, five miles west and three-quarter mile north of Venturia where they lived until they moved off of the farm in 1944.

In the early spring of 1901 he purchased two old horses, harnesses and a wagon for \$125.00. The latter part of March he and Mr. Glatt went to an auction sale southwest of Eureka where they auctioned two horses for \$155.00. Mr. Glatt's horse cost \$75.00 and Mr. Engelhart's horse cost \$30.00. They both mortgaged their two horses so they could purchase these two. Mr. Glatt had to co-sign Mr. Engelhart's mortgage and Mr. Engelhart had to co-sign Mr. Glatt's mortgage. The next morning they went to Eureka from the sale and purchased a plow for \$25.00 and again mortgaged his two horses for this. The same day he purchased some wood to build a sod house and again mortgaged his two horses. This being the third time these horses were mortgaged in two days. When they returned home with the horses they took them into the house. The horses felt very proud to be living in a house.

Later in the spring of 1901 the Engelhart's moved away from Mr. Glatt's and moved into Mr. Heintzmann's sod house which was almost on the border of their homestead. The only thing they had to move with them

was an old home-made bed and table. They also had five chickens which were given to them. They had one cow which didn't give milk. Mr. Engelhart seeded 20 acres of wheat and eight acres of flax the year of 1901. They



didn't have any feed for the horses except what they could pick up from the pasture. After spring work of this year they built a small barn of sod. When the barn was finished one side caved in. This was their first attempt at building anything like this and the results were bad. Mr. Frank Glatt then helped rebuild the barn again which was successful this time. Next they built their sod house which was partly of brick made of clay. When this house was finished they moved from Mr. Heintzmann's sod house into their own. The only food they had to eat was bread and tea. They had some cream which they had saved up from the old house and this was destroyed by Mr. Adam Zeigher's calf which fell into the Engelhart's cellar. This particular can in which the cream was saved was thrown out and during the next day when they were working their only pig, which also was given to them, got stuck in the cream can and suffocated. During the summer of 1901 the present Soo Line, which goes through Venturia was built and Mr. Engelhart procured a job for \$2.50 a day. He also walked to and from work each day.

Their first harvest was very poor. The 20 acres of wheat yielded only 24 bushels and the eight acres of flax yielded 30 bushels. The wheat had to be kept for seed and 25 bushels of flax was sold for \$1.50 per bushel. In the fall of 1901 Mr. Engelhart took a small load of hay to Eureka for which he made enough to buy a bed without a spring and bought a few groceries that they had to have. On July 4, 1901 the Engelhart's celebrated at Eureka. Mrs. Engelhart sold a small ball of butter for 35 cents and with this she bought coffee, matches, and tobacco. This was the Engelhart's first 4th of July celebration.

They lived on their homestead until 1944 when they sold out and moved to Zeeland

and in the spring of 1945 they moved to Aberdeen. They never asked for help from anyone, neither did they get any aid of any kind. Mr. Paul T. Kretschmar, the banker at Venturia, was Mr. Engelhart's kindest friend and with this bank he transacted all his business.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenze Engelhart celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 26, 1950. They have eight sons: Sylvester, William, John, Jacob, George, Sebastian, Lawrence, and Joseph; two daughters: Mrs. Calvin Henne of Sioux Falls, S. Dak. and Mrs. Thomas Suter of Westport, S. Dak.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB STROH

Jacob Stroh, son of Jacob Stroh and Magdalena Stocker came to Ipswich, S. Dak. from South Russia with his mother, one brother, and two sisters in 1892 at the age of six years. The mother filed on a homestead twenty miles northwest of Ipswich and upon proving the claim she married Mr. Jacob Dockter in April 1895 and moved together with her four children to a farm two miles northeast of Venturia. Mr. Stroh lived with his mother and step-father until he was united in marriage with Lydia Retzer on January 25, 1910, at which time he began farming a farm located three and one-half miles northeast of Venturia and continued farming until his retirement in the fall of 1945. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Stroh moved to Venturia and Mr. Stroh is still very active in town and helping his children with their work when necessary. There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stroh, namely: Berthold, six miles south of Eureka; Edwin, eleven miles south of Eureka; Mrs. Hulda Loeb of Eureka; Mrs. Edna Neuhardt, six miles southeast of Eureka; Mrs. Martha Opp, sixteen miles northeast of Eureka; Mrs. Adeline Ehley, one mile south of Leola; Herbert, six miles west of Zeeland; Wilbert, on the home farm and Mrs. Lorretta Dockter of Venturia.



GOTTLIEB BERTSCH

Mrs. Gottlieb Bertsch, daughter of Peter and Margaretta Schrenk was born in Johnnesthal, South Russia on August 21, 1871.

In 1887, she came to America with her parents and lived near Menno, S. Dak. until May 1888 when the family settled in McPherson County, S. Dak.

In 1889 she was married to Gottlieb Bertsch and together they made their home in Detmold township of McPherson county.

Mr. Bertsch helped build the Soo Line Railroad when the tracks were laid through Venturia. Mr. Bertsch died on May 5, 1940.

The children of Bertsch's are: Carl G. and Adolph of Eureka; Julius and Emanuel of Isabel, S. Dak.; John G. and Mrs. Simon Heupel of Ashley; Theodore, Gottlieb and Mrs. Julius Diede of Greenway; Mrs. Christ Dohn, Mrs. Carl Dohn and Otto of Venturia.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB J. WIEDMANN

Mr. Jacob J. Wiedmann was born in South Russia on October 2, 1870 and emigrated with his parents to the United States in April of 1890. The family located one-half mile west of Venturia, constructing a home of sod. Mr. Wiedmann helped his father



farm until he was married to Miss Dorothea Diede in 1893, at which time they lived on a farm one mile north of Venturia for a few years. The Wiedmann family then moved

to Wishek where Mr. Wiedmann was engaged in a store. In 1901, when Venturia came into being, Mr. Wiedmann returned from Wishek, homesteading a claim one mile south of Venturia and also started a business of his own, establishing a general store and later a hardware and furniture store. Mr. Wiedmann became Venturia's post master in 1902 which he held until his death. He also was school director and school clerk for the Venturia school for several years. Ten children were born to the Wiedmann's of which three died in infancy and the youngest lad died at the age of nine. The remaining children are Florence (Mrs. Otto Kretschmar) of Venturia, Arthur in Mandan; Pauline (Mrs. August Bertsch) of Minot; Emil in Ashley; Martha (Mrs. Arthur Weir) of Anamoose; and August of Minot.

Mr. Wiedmann was a member of the Venturia Baptist church until his death on October 7, 1914, and is buried in the Venturia Baptist cemetery.

JACOB ZIMMERMAN

Jacob Zimmerman came to America on July 10, 1892 and settled near Menno, S. Dak. The year 1894 he came with his parents to McIntosh county and settled three miles south of Venturia. Mr. Zimmerman worked as a hired man for several different persons and later worked with a well drilling machine which his father had purchased.

In 1900 Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Rosina Kaul and resided on a farm three miles south of Venturia until 1928. The family then moved to Ashley where he purchased a jewelry store which one of his sons operated for a period of years.

Mrs. Zimmerman died on December 24, 1943. In April, 1944, he married Mrs. Katherine Henrikson, who passed away on September 16, 1944. He married Mrs. Madelena Haupt in July, 1947.

In 1944 Mr. Zimmerman retired and moved to Jamestown. In 1946 he returned to Venturia where he now resides.

JACOB J. TESKY

Mrs. Christina Tesky, the daughter of Michael and Katherina Delzer was born October 19, 1888, in Lesterville, South Dakota. This location was her home for two years. A new home was established the following year, south of Venturia. At this location Christina grew to womanhood and on the 28th of December, 1905 was married to Jacob Tesky.



The Jacob Tesky family moved to Venturia, where Mr. Tesky was engaged in the elevator business and later became a rural mail carrier. This position he held until he retired. Mr. Tesky died on July 31, 1947.

The family was blessed with twelve children. Enoch Wilbur died in infancy; Ida (Mrs. Jacob Buck) Streeter, N. Dak.; Arthur, Theophil and Willard of Venturia; Anna (Mrs. Arthur Gust) Denver, Colo.; Harold at Richland, Wash.; Theodore at Harvey, N. Dak.; Ervin at Eureka, S. Dak.; Edna (Mrs. Gideon Kinzie) at Streeter, N. Dak.; Octavia (Mrs. Norman Bertsch) of Venturia and Agnes attending bible school in Minneapolis, Minn.

CHRISTIAN J. FISCHER

Christian J. Fischer, son of Johann and Elizabeth Fischer, nee Kussmaul, was born at Bergdorf, South Russia on December 2, 1862. Here he grew to manhood. At the age of 17 years he spent six months in the war with Turkey and Russia where he hauled bread and other food provisions.

In the year of 1884 he entered military service and served with the Artillery for five years and was promoted as one of the highest ranking officers.

After his discharge he was married to Miss Fredricka Trefz on January 9, 1889. Shortly thereafter they sailed for America, landing first in New York from where they entrained for Eureka, S. Dak., arriving there on April 9, 1889. Eureka at that time was still a very small village.

The young couple then began their pio-

neering on a homestead south of Ashley in McPherson county where they experienced many hardships. The numbers 1889 were carved in a rock so that all generations may view it as a memorial of the year of their arrival.

They had two oxen and a cow which generally were hitched together on their farm machinery which consisted mainly of a plow and a harrow. Seeding was done by hand.

Their house was of sod. Their furniture was crude, made out of boards and boxes. Their first oven was built in a dug-out in the side of a hill. Here huge loaves of delicious bread was baked by the Russian formula and method which gained such renown for its fluffiness and flavor that people from town came out to buy it. It is of interest to mention that one of these men was the late J. H. Wishek. Kettles were used in which to bake the bread. Later a larger oven was built out of blocks of sod and clay. The family grew. Also many immigrants and relatives who sought homes found shelter here. Some remained as long as two or three weeks at a time. Mrs. Fischer baked 14 large loaves of bread at one time. Jack rabbits were their main meat dish.

Eureka was their nearest town to which they generally walked for provisions. For their flour supply the men in the neighborhood would drive to Ellendale by ox-team. They would start at 3:00 o'clock in the morning and arrive at 10:00 o'clock that evening, a distance of about 45 miles. Here they spent the night lying on the floor of the mill. Next day they each loaded four sacks of flour (about 500 lbs) at \$1.50 per sack and started



back to their respective homes. Each received an extra sack of bran free.

They made butter occasionally which they carried to Ashley. They had regular customers who were eager to buy it. On one occasion Mr. Fischer had four pounds of butter which he sold for six cents per pound, receiving 24c for it. With this money he bought three yards of material out of which his wife made a fine dress shirt which he proudly wore. Their work shirts were made

out of flour sacks. Since the labels were hard to remove they were left in. So the men generally had one on the back of his shirt. The label had a braided loaf (Galatsch) on it and the words "Daily Braid" under it.

Mr. Fischer was always active in church work serving many years as church clerk, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also occasionally officiated at funerals in the absence of a pastor, as in the year of 1892 an epidemic of diphtheria broke out and again in 1897-98. Many were claimed by death during these times. The scripture passage taken from Jer. 31, 15 was his favorite for these occasions.

On Sunday the services were always held in the homes. When it was announced that a pastor would be at a certain place they would travel for many miles to hear him, sometimes as far as Artas, Kulm and so on. By that time a few had horses, so one farmer would give one horse and his neighbor another which they hitched together. Usually three seats were put on a wagon and filled with neighbors. Wherever the service was held, that home was host to all worshippers. Generally a sheep was butchered and prepared ahead of time. Dishes were not so plentiful so occasionally one cup would be shared by two guests. Generosity and hospitality was unsurpassed in spite of their poverty. At one time another such meeting was announced. Only women were able to attend since this was in the fall of the year when all men had gone to work in harvest fields in the vicinity of Fessenden, Harvey and surrounding territories and would be away from their homes and families for several weeks at a time.

In the year of 1914 they moved to a new farm in Lowell Valley about five miles southeast of Venturia. Through economy and thrift he became one of the most progressive farmers. At one time he owned 16½ quarters of land which was more than 2600 acres in McPherson and McIntosh counties.

Twelve children were born to this union, three of whom have died. Mrs. Fischer passed away on July 11, 1942. Mr. Fischer is still living and resides in Ashley since 1943. He is very active and is over 88 years of age. He still reads without glasses.

The living children are: Christian C. Fischer in McPherson county; Jacob C. Fischer, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Mrs. Henry Miller (Frieda), in Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Fred Fischer, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Mrs. Ferdinand Haux (Magdalena), Wilton, Calif.; Carl Fischer, in Ashley, N. Dak.; David C. Fischer, Fort Totten, N. Dak.; Samuel Fischer, in Rapid City, S. Dak.; Emanuel Fischer, in Lowell Valley near Venturia, N. Dak.



DANIEL JANKE

Daniel Janke was born in Margoaf, Copun, South Russia on January 17, 1891. In the spring of 1908 the Janke family arrived in America and settled on a farm nine miles southwest of Kulm. After farming near Kulm for two years the family moved to a farm nine miles northwest of Venturia and here Daniel farmed with his parents until November 9, 1916. He was married to Elizabeth Schwenk, also born in South Russia, at Worms on January 17, 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Janke established their own home and worked happily together for thirty-three years, enduring hardships and enjoying their children and home life. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Janke, one of which died in infancy. The others are: Elvina, Viola, Edwin, Calvin, Gideon, Irene and Herbert, all living near Venturia. Mrs. Janke passed away on June 6, 1949.



ALBERT DOCKTER

Albert Dockter was born February 5, 1901 in McIntosh county, son of Gottlieb Dockter, Jr. and wife Christina. For thirty years he has been residing on a farm three and one-half miles northwest of Venturia.

On November 22, 1921 he exchanged marriage vows with Lydia Thurn, daughter of Fredrick Thurn of Zeeland, N. Dak. They have a family of four, all living, Mrs. August C. (Leona) Bertsch; Violet, Leonard and Elmer at home.

GOTTHILF PFEIFLE

Gotthilf Pfeifle was born in McPherson county, S. Dak. on February 28, 1886. In the year 1900 the family moved to McIntosh county and Mr. Pfeifle procured a job on the building of the Soo railroad. He was married to Katherina Spitzer. In 1907 he settled on a farm in Albrights Valley, on section 14, and the Pfeifle family are living there at the present time.



In March, 1921, the Pfeifle's moved to Venturia where Mr. Pfeifle owned and operated a meat market until 1928 at which time they returned to their farm. They continued to farm until 1947 when his son Cyrus took over the farm and Mr. Pfeifle retired.

They are the parents of seven children: Oscar, Cyrus, Ethel, Olga (Mrs. Andrew Dockter), Ida (Mrs. Gideon Hagel), Alma (Mrs. Rheinhold Kundred), and Otilia (Mrs. Lloyd Darling).

The Pfeifle family has undergone many hardships and Mr. Pfeifle remembers well the hardships endured by the pioneers.

JOHN DOCKTER, JR.

John Dockter, Jr., the eldest son of Johann and Elizabeth, nee Schlepp, Dockter was born March 1, 1890 near Venturia. John, being the eldest child, helped to share some of the burdens that confronted the early settlers, as he grew to manhood. He remembers digging tunnels under the snow drifts from one barn to another. He also remembers feeding the cattle from the roof of a sod barn. This was done by walking on the drifts to the roof of the barn and dropping the hay through the roof to the cattle. The hay was carried by armful over the drifts of snow.

In 1902, John Dockter helped his father build the Venturia hotel which is now August Haupt's cafe and home; and also helped build Venturia's pool hall which is now August Haupt's liquor store and recreation par-

lor. John Dockter served as a table waiter in the Venturia hotel, a position which his brother Gustave later held.

On November 16, 1911, John Dockter was united in marriage to Christina, nee Dockter, and to them fourteen children were born. Those living are: Mrs. Ida Haas, Mrs. Elsie Imhoff, John R., Eva and Gustave.

Mr. Dockter made his first home on a farm which he rented about six miles northeast of Venturia. In 1914 he moved on his father's farm and after World War I he had his own farm four miles northeast of Venturia, which he farmed until 1925. That year he purchased a hardware store in Venturia and this business he managed until he moved to Ashley in 1929. Mr. Dockter is now engaged in the business of selling and installing furnaces and general repair work.

MR. AND MRS. GOTTLIEB J. DOCKTER

Gottlieb J. Dockter was born in Neudorf, South Russia on November 17, 1884, and his wife Rosina was born 12 miles north of Zealand, N. Dak. in her parents' farm home on October 24, 1887. Mr. Dockter is a son of Jacob and Margaretha Dockter, nee Krein.

Mr. Dockter at the age of one and one-half years accompanied his parents to America, settling first at Menno, S. Dak. in 1886. Two years later in 1889 they moved to McIntosh county where they took up a homestead where he grew to manhood.

Mr. Dockter married Rosina Thurn in 1908. Nine children were born to this marriage, namely: Ferdinand, Andrew, Christoph, Freda, Ephraim, Arthur, Walter, Esther and Adam.

His father, Jacob Dockter, died in 1934, aged 74, and his mother died in 1895, aged 35.



Mrs. Gottlieb J. Dockter's father, John Thurn, passed away in 1942 at the age of 78 and her mother in 1948 at the age of 85. She was Barbara Thurn, nee Schnabel.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb J. Dockter remained on the farm from 1908 to 1947 when they moved to the town of Venturia.

JOHN J. RITTER

John J. Ritter was the oldest son of John Ritter. He was born October 12, 1882 in South Russia. When two years old he arrived in America and settled at Tyndal, S. Dak. There he stayed during the winter 1884-1885. In the spring of 1885 he moved north to Eureka and as Mr. Ritter grew up he attended public school three months every winter.



In 1901 Mr. Ritter came to Venturia to seek employment when the railroad was built through here, but the contractors had enough laborers. The year 1901 was a very weak crop year, so he returned south to Tripp, S. Dak. to help with farm work.

In 1902 Mr. Ritter came to Venturia for some coal and in 1905 came back and homesteaded three miles southwest of Venturia.

On December 7, 1906, Mr. Ritter was united in marriage to Emma Joachim. To them four children were born. Those living are: Joachim, Lenhardt, Mrs. Edward Blumhardt, and Mrs. Rudolph Mayer. The wife and mother passed away June 7, 1925. Realizing that he could not get along without a mate and a mother for the children, he married Mrs. Christina Hoffman in 1926 and acquired two more children, Albert and Hilda Hoffman.

Mr. Ritter took an active part in the development of the community, serving as trustee on the Village Board 12 years and as Village Marshal and Assessor. He is an active member and church worker and helped to organize the Zion Lutheran church in 1910. He also helped to build the new church in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Ritter have retired and reside in Venturia at the present time.

MR. AND MRS. PETER KNOLL

Mr. Peter Knoll was born in Kassel of South Russia on March 31, 1863. His parents were George and Katharina Knoll. Mrs. Peter Knoll was born on July 26, 1865 also

in South Russia. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Kienzle.

In the year of 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Knoll were married and soon after came to Venturia settling on a 160-acre homestead 11 miles northwest of Venturia. At that early date the prairies of the Venturia territory were wild, broad, and long but with much toil and thrift the Knoll's acquired many acres of land on which they worked diligently until their retirement in the fall of 1922, when they moved into Venturia. Here Mr. Knoll died on August 15, 1939 and Mrs. Knoll died on New Year's Day in 1949 and both are laid to rest in the Venturia Baptist cemetery. They both were of the Baptist faith.

Mr. and Mrs. Knoll were the parents of twelve children, four sons, Jacob, Adolph, and Arthur of Venturia and Peter of Lehr. Two daughters died after they were married and two daughters died in childhood. The remaining four daughters are: Mrs. Carolina Gruzic of Lodi, California, Mrs. Ida Wagner of Bismarck, Mrs. Martha Ulmer of Danzig, and Mrs. Ella Bender of Venturia.

MR. AND MRS. FREDRICK HUMMEL

The son of two early pioneers of McIntosh county was Fredrick Hummel, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hummel. He was born in Russia and came with his parents to America when he was one year and three months old in the year 1894. They settled near Greenway, S. Dak. until the year 1901 when they moved seven miles north of Venturia.



In 1917 he was called into the army in World War I and came back in January 1919. That year he was united in marriage to Lydia Roth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Roth. They farmed on his parents' place until the year 1941 and then moved to the Jacob Roth farm. In 1946 they bought land eight miles west of Venturia, where they are farming now.

Mrs. Fredrick Hummel was born in the United States on August 10, 1898, farming with her parents until the year of 1919.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY P. WIEST

Henry P. Wiest is the son of Peter Wiest and his wife Theresa, nee Quast.

He was born August 7, 1888 in McIntosh county in the Blumenthal school district, grew to manhood, was married and was a farmer in that district until he moved to Wishek and retired in 1946.



His wife Elizabeth (Thurn) Wiest was born in McIntosh county April 24, 1889 and she was married to Mr. Wiest January 5, 1911. Mr. Wiest at the age of 14 was driving a team of oxen and handling a walking plow. He said the team of oxen was something to handle.

Mr. Wiest was a deacon of the Reformed church for 24 years, is a Reformed church member to this day and a member of the Blumenthal school board for eight years.

The first businessmen that Mr. Wiest can remember in Venturia were: Wiedmann Bros., Schlepp and Roth, P. T. Kretschmar and Jacob Hochstetter.

There were six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Wiest and are namely: Adam, living at Ashley; Otto T. and Gottlieb, living on the farms 13 miles northwest of Venturia; Herman, living in Arkansas; Gideon, deceased, and Adeline, married. Below is the obituary of Gideon Wiest, who passed away shortly following his army discharge.

A large group of relatives, friends and neighbors gathered at the city auditorium in Wishek to attend the funeral services for Gideon Wiest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Wiest of Wishek. Rev. John Bodenman delivered the sermon, basing his remarks on Jole 2:10 (German) and Matt. 25:10 (English).

Burial took place in the Wishek cemetery. The local American Legion Post was in charge of the military rites.

Gideon Albert Wiest, the son of Henry P. Wiest and Elizabeth, nee Thurn, was born on a farm 18 miles southwest of Wishek on

October 2, 1920. He was baptized in the name of the Triune God on November 23, 1920, by Rev. Peter Bauer and confirmed by Rev. H. Krueger on June 28, 1936.

The Wiest family were members of the Kassel Reformed congregation. Reared in a happy, prosperous family, Gideon graduated from the country school. Later he was drafted for army duties, entering the service on March 16, 1945. As a Private, First Class, he served in the Pacific and in Korea, and saw many terrors of war.

On December 25, 1946, he received his honorable discharge with a Victory Medal. When his parents moved to Wishek he stayed with his brother, Otto, on the farm. During the night of February 26-27 the two young men became very ill and were found a day later by their father in a coma, probably caused by coal gas.

They were taken to the hospital in Eureka. Otto recovered but Gideon developed pneumonia. He died the afternoon of March 1, 1947 at the age of 26 years and one day than five months.

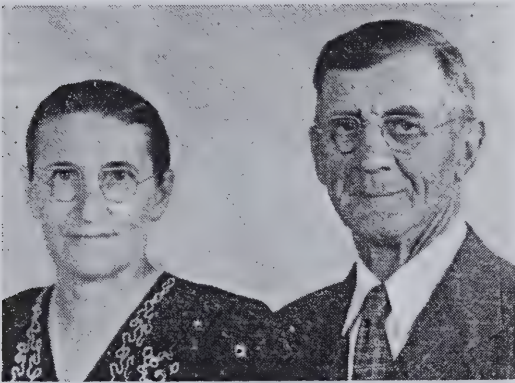
The nearest relatives left to mourn his early death are his parents; four brothers, Adam, of Ashley; Otto and Gottlieb, of Venturia; and Herman, of Burbank, Calif.; a sister, Adeline; his grandmother, Mrs. Barbara Thurn; and a nephew, Clarence Wiest.

BALTHASAR ISZLER, JR.

Balthasar Iszler and his family moved to Venturia in 1910 where he was engaged in the general store business and also bought cream. For one year, in 1915, Mr. Iszler was Venturia's postmaster. In 1932, Mr. Iszler was elected to the office of County Register of Deeds and the family moved to Ashley, the county seat. This position Mr. Iszler has held and is still holding since his first election. The Iszler's children are Emma, Magdalena, Albert, Otto, Helen, Irma and Arlone.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB J. SCHLEPP

Jacob J. Schlepp was born December 7, 1885 in Neudorf, South Russia. His parents were Jacob and Magdalena Schlepp, (nee Dockter). When he was three months old



he came to America with his parents. They stopped at Menno, S. Dak. When he was four years old they came to McIntosh County. Here he grew to manhood while helping along on his Dad's farm.

On November 8, 1908 he was united in marriage to Carolina Stroh. Miss Stroh was born September 27, 1890 also in South Russia and came to America at the age of one and a half years old with his mother, Mrs. Margaret Stroh (nee Stoerker).

After their marriage, Mr. Schlepp bought his father's farm. Here they always have been farming and still are at the present time.

This union was blessed with seven children. They are: Gustav, Venturia; Martha (Mrs. Leopold Dockter), Venturia; Milton, Yakima, Washington; Arthur, Venturia; Maggie, Venturia; Jacob R., Venturia; and Adam, Venturia.

Mr. and Mrs. Schlepp are members of the Reformed church.

JOHN JOACHIM

Mr. John Joachim, fifth child born to Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Joachim was born eight miles south of Venturia on August 13, 1890. He was reared on the farm, attending rural school. After completing his education he worked on the farm with his father and taught rural school during the winter months. On January 26, 1916, he was married to Miss Dora Wagner and together they farmed until their retirement in the fall of 1946 when they moved to Venturia. Seven children were born to the John Joachims, one died in childhood and their son, Herbert, was killed

in action in the South Pacific during World War II on November 1, 1943. The remaining children are Walter, Allen, Lenora, Viola (Mrs. Willard Tesky) and Mavis (Mrs. Adam Dockter).

MR. AND MRS. JACOB SCHLEPP, SR.

Jacob Schlepp was born on April 25, 1861 in Neudorf, South Russia where he also was united in marriage to Magdalena Dockter on the 12th of February, 1882.

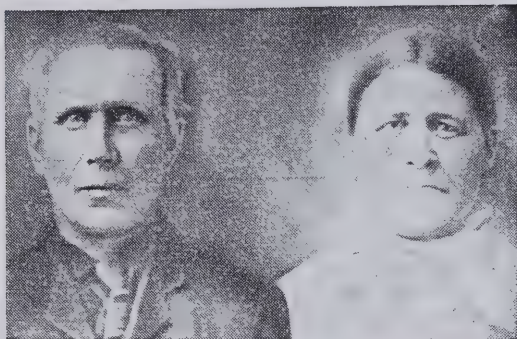
Four years later they left Russia with one son, accompanied by two brothers and two sisters of Mr. Schlepp and their father, John Schlepp, and others. They settled near Menno, S. Dak., where others already had settled. There they both worked as hired help. After three years (in May, 1889) they journeyed with wagon and oxen from their temporary home to McIntosh county. Here he homesteaded, some of it two miles north of Venturia and some three and a half miles northwest of Venturia. First they built a house of sod on the land north of Venturia. Being that water was hard to find there, Mr. Schlepp noticed one day that on the other patch of land he owned, water was so shallow that a badger had dug up wet gravel in a dry season. There he started digging a well and did find shallow water, which temptingly made him build a farm home around it.

They lived on this farm for 20 years. In 1910 they moved to Venturia, where Mr. Schlepp was engaged in the lumber business for 13 years and then retired.

One son and three daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schlepp, all of whom are living. They are: Jacob J. Schlepp, Venturia; Christina, (Mrs. Jacob Walth), Wishek; Magdalena, (Mrs. John P. Rudolph), Edgeley; Barbara, (Mrs. Adam Rudolph), Venturia.



Death came to Mrs. Schlepp December 6, 1946, at the age of 84 years, and to Mr. Schlepp October 17, 1950, at the age of 89. They both were laid to rest in the Venturia Reformed cemetery.

BALTHASAR ISZLER SR.

Balthasar Iszler Sr. and his wife Dorothea Iszler, nee Joachim, came from Bessarabia, South Russia in the spring of 1898. That year they took up a homestead three and one-half miles north of Venturia. Here they remained until their death, farming being their occupation. The Iszler's children were: Johann Michael, Gottlieb, Balthasar Jr., Andrew, Friedrich, Elizabeth and William. Both Mr. and Mrs. Iszler have passed away.

ANDREW B. HAAS

Andrew Haas, a native born son of one of the earliest pioneers of Venturia vicinity, was born one half mile west of Venturia on February 20, 1894. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and on March 27, 1917, was united in marriage to Magdalena Dockter, a daughter of Gottlieb Dockter, Jr. This young couple settled on a quarter section of land four miles north of Venturia which was given to them by Mr. Haas' father and together they established a home which is now quite modern and farming is done by machinery, very different from the hand plow and harrow which his father had to use.

Mr. and Mrs. Haas belong to the Venturia Baptist church and are the parents of seven children, Alan; Fay (Mrs. Leo Bertsch); Edna (Mrs. Aaron Bertsch); Aaron; Lavilla (Mrs. Milbert Dollinger); Lemar and Arla Mae.

**MR. AND MRS. GOTTLIEB BREITLING**

One of the early pioneers of this community was Gottlieb Breitling. He was born in South Russia on January 1, 1864. He came to America in 1884, Scotland, South Dakota was his destination. Financially embarrassed, he could go no further. He obtained work on the farm of Christian Ferderic for three and one-half years, receiving \$150 per year. This money he saved and later bought two horses, two cows and some blacksmith tools. He had learned the art of the blacksmith trade in Russia and had the advantage on the average farmer with this sideline.

In 1888, he purchased a team of oxen, a wagon, harrow and plow and decided to go to the central part of the territory where there was a better choice of land to file on. His stock and other possessions were loaded and shipped to Eureka. That being the end of the line, the trip from there was made across the country with wagon and team, the rest of the stock being tied to the wagon and



led. He located and filed on the NE quarter of section 31, township 129, range 71, about seven miles southwest of Venturia. Having no ready money he worked at his blacksmith trade on the farm. Many of his neighbors brought him work and one man walked 12 miles bringing him some work.

Schools and churches were not established as yet, but the lack of church buildings did not keep these people from their worship. The family bible was read every day, and on Sunday they would gather at the home of Mike Delzer for worship services.

Mr. Breitling was united in marriage to Fredricka Dobler in 1888, Rev. Bedd performing the ceremony. Fifteen children were born to this union, 13 of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Breitling retired from farming in 1933 and moved to Venturia where they resided until the passing of Mr. Breitling December 22, 1943. Mrs. Gottlieb Breitling now resides with her children.

ANDREW A. SAYLER



Andrew A. Sayler was born in Johannestahl, South Russia on May 16, 1876.

When Andrew was one year of age his parents moved to another nearby village, where they resided until the year 1894.

In that year the Sayler family decided to move to America. On the first day of May according to the Russian calendar (which at that time was 13 days behind our calendar) the entire family embarked and after eleven days at sea landed on American soil. They then boarded a train and ten days later arrived at Freeman, S. Dak.

The family spent two weeks at Freeman and then moved twelve miles north and two miles east of Eureka, S. Dak., where they established their new home in America.

Andrew's father was a farmer and naturally much work was required to break the sod, move rocks, build a home, etc., but in spite of all this he found time to join a well drilling outfit and spent his spare time at this work.

On November 11, 1900 he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Christina Staebner. To this union eleven children were born, two of which were still-born and one died at the age of three.

After his marriage he farmed for seven years and then moved to the Village of Venturia. With his brother Christian a partnership was formed and they went into the farm implement business. After some years Andrew bought his brother's share of the business and operated it until the year 1942 when he retired from active business.

On July 29, 1923 Mrs. Sayler was called to rest by her maker and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery at Venturia.

The following year on April 29, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Katherina Krause, with whom he is living at the present time.

He was at all times an active member of the Lutheran faith and was one of the founders of the local Zion Lutheran Church.

Since its organization in the year of 1909 he has, with the exception of one year, been a deacon of the church continuously.

He was also active in civic life. He served as a member of the Village Board for many years and was also a member of the school board for quite a number of years.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SCHILLING, SR.

George Schilling Sr. was born January 8, 1880 in Glueckstal, South Russia. His parents were Wm. Schilling and Carolina Schilling, nee Boschee.

He married Katherina Woehl at Ashley on November 22, 1903. Mrs. Schilling was born March 4, 1888, a daughter of Henry Woehl and Katherina Woehl, nee Brenneise. Nine children were born to them. One died. The eight remaining children are: George, Theodore, Adam, Ida Meidinger of Venturia; Emma Kasemann, Martha Benkendorf, Rose Wolf and Christine Ottmar of Wishek.

Mrs. Schilling entered this country on June 1, 1901. She worked south of Eureka as hired farm help, coming to this community in 1903. Mr. Schilling homesteaded 14 miles northwest of Venturia and farmed there for 40 years. Due to the fact that the Schillings were not of the very first pioneers, they were fortunate in not having to endure any of the severe hardships of pioneer life. The family lost only one child.

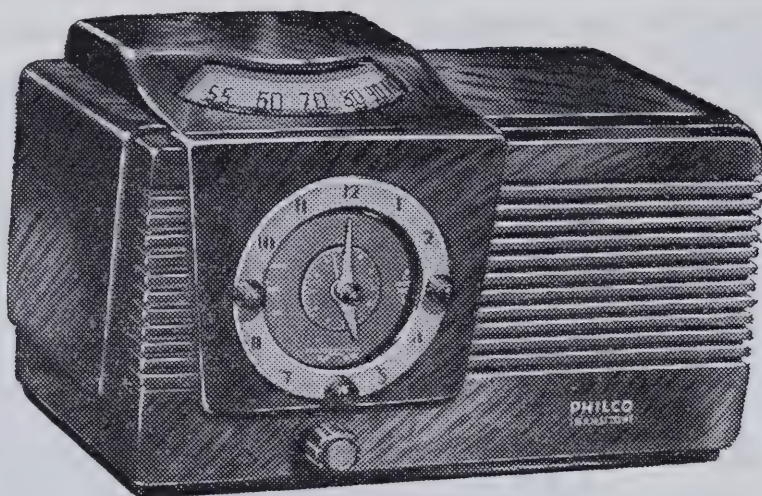
Financially they were also fortunate, whenever possible they added to their land by purchasing a tract or more until they had a total of eight quarters with two sets of buildings and other personal property to a fair extent. He was a member of the school board in Blumenthal district.





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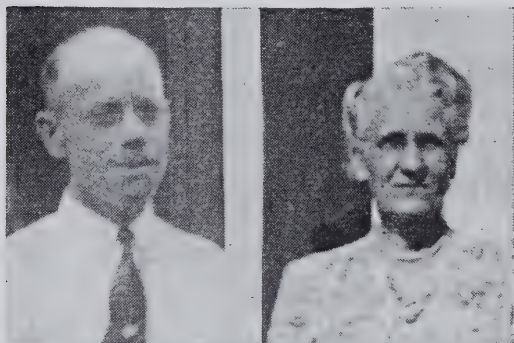
MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL BENDER

Samuel Bender, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bender, Sr., was born on a farm six miles west and two miles north of Venturia on June 11, 1900. Mr. Bender remembers well the time when all plowing was done with a hand plow drawn by two horses. When he was but twelve years of age he walked behind such a plow for days at a time. When Mr. Bender was 22 years of age he rented a farm for two and one-half years which he farmed and lived on alone. In 1924 he bought his own farm, on which he is now living and on April 12, 1925 he was united in marriage to Miss Leah Breitling, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Breitling, a substantial pioneer family. To this union six children were born: Luverne, dying in infancy; Delbert, now in service and stationed in Germany; Clarence, Myron, Oliver and Ruby still at home.

MR. AND MRS. GINTHON BENDER

Ginthon Bender was born on a farm near Venturia on October 21, 1902, the youngest son of Martin Bender. He was married to Ella Knoll on November 1, 1922 at Herreid, S. Dak. by Rev. Bentz.

Mrs. Bender also was born on a farm



near Venturia on July 13, 1903, the daughter of Peter Knoll.

To this union two daughters were born, namely: Agnes, married to Eugene Weisenburger, who lives in Venturia, and Irene, married to Albert Diede, on a farm near Venturia, N. Dak.

Mr. Bender had been engaged in farming for several years, but due to ill health moved to Venturia in 1929. Since then he owned and successfully operated the Standard Oil service station and acquired for himself many true friends.

On March 11, 1942, at the age of 39 years, four months and 18 days, he passed away at the Bismarck hospital.

At present, Mrs. Bender is making her home in Venturia.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN STROH

.. Mr. John Stroh of Wishek, N. Dak. was born January 15, 1870 in Neudorf, South Russia. The parents were Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Kathrina, nee Hinne, Stroh. They



all came to the United States and settled near Menno, S. Dak. in 1901. Mr. Stroh was married to Magdalena Herrman on February 4, 1891. After living near Menno they later came to North Dakota and settled a few miles north of Venturia where they farmed until their retirement in 1935. They then moved to Venturia where they lived for three years and then moved to Aberdeen. They now make their home with their children spending a time at each of their homes. They have ten children who are: John of Aberdeen, Jacob of Wishek, Christina of Hebron, Magdalena of Streeter, Clara of Aberdeen, Lydia of Streeter, Gottlieb of Groton, George of Venturia, Theodore of Streeter and Oscar of Bowman.

EMIL DOCKTER

Emil Dockter was born and reared in McIntosh county, one and one-half miles north of Venturia. He was a son of Gottlieb Dockter, Jr. and his wife Christina, nee Vilhauer. He was married to Albina Hochhalter, a daughter of Jacob F. Hochhalter on November 28, 1924. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. John Klundt.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Dockter settled on a farm four and one-half miles northeast of Venturia on which they are still living. They have five children, namely: Olive (Mrs. Christian Diede) Eureka, S. Dak.; Loraine (Mrs. Roger Zimmerman) Greenway, S. Dak.; Melvin, Millie and Larry still at home.

MR. AND MRS. CHRIST DOHN

Christ Dohn, son of Karl Dohn and his wife Carolina, nee Hiltz, was born on January 28, 1884 in Johannesthal, South Russia. Mr. Dohn came to this country with his parents in 1889.

His wife, Sophia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb and Katharina Bertsch, nee Schrenk, was born on April 29, 1891 in McPherson county, South Dakota. She married Mr. Dohn on November 20, 1909 at the "Bertsch Baptist" church. The couple then settled on a farm five miles southwest of

Venturia, and farmed that farm for 39 years.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Christ Dohn, one child died in infancy. The eight living children are, namely: Adolph, Albert, Theophil and Mrs. August (Clara) Dockter, all living at Venturia; Edmund of Greenway, S. Dak.; Mrs. Orwin (Martha) Bader of Wishek, and Walter and Otilia, living with their parents.

Mr. Dohn was a member of the Spring Creek No. 2 school board for a number of years, a Sunday school teacher, and deacon of the Bertsch Baptist church for several years.

MR. AND MRS. ANDREAS PFEIFLE

Andreas Pfeifle, Wishek, N. Dak., was born April 3, 1884 at Hutchinson, S. Dak., son of Jacob and Christina, nee Denning Pfeifle. He was married to Marie Stadel on December 16, 1905 at Scotland, S. Dak. Mrs. Pfeifle was born on March 5, 1881, the daughter of Konrad and Dorothea, nee Denning Stadel. To this family five children were born, two boys and three girls. The children are: Anette (Mrs. Anton) Kolasch, Ellendale, N. Dak.; Laura (Mrs. John) Kemmet, Wishek, N. Dak.; Helmuth, Adeline (Mrs. Julius) Bender, Guenther Pfeifle, all of Ashley, N. Dak. The Pfeifle's came to this community in 1906, settling eight miles northeast of Venturia.

Mr. Pfeifle took up a 160-acre homestead, starting his venture with one cow, two chickens, one rooster and one pig. He borrowed his father's team of horses and hand plow to till the soil. They lived in a frame house of boards 14x22, where they also kept their seed. Their barn was 14x14, covered with hay. His first harvest was given to his father for his payment. Their means of travel was by horse and wagon. In 1909 they built a larger barn 24x28, and in 1917 moved one mile south where they built a house. He helped work on the Soo Line railroad when they built the tracks to this community.



MR. AND MRS. JACOB J. DOCKTER

Mr. Jacob J. Dockter came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dockter Sr. as a lad of seven years old. They arrived in Menno, S. Dak. on April 5, 1886 and stayed there until the spring of 1889 at which time the father filed on a homestead two and one-half miles northeast of Venturia. The first



thing that was to be done was to build a house and a barn of sod. The walls and the roofs were of lumber which was hauled from the Missouri River by oxen. The land which was broken up was done by oxen which Mr. Dockter led for his father.

One of the outstanding hardships of the early days was the lack of water on the homestead. Mr. Dockter and his brother Gottlieb had to drive the cattle two miles each day to water. They did not relish walking that distance so they often rode the cattle. Often times they could not get on to the cattle so they had to wait their chance when the cattle lowered their heads for drinking they would jump on their necks and crawl to their backs. They considered this great sport being seven and nine years of age at that time. On their daily drives to water they saw many antelope and buffalo roaming the prairies. In 1905 Mr. Dockter filed on a homestead three miles northeast of Venturia on which he lived for twelve years. In the year 1907 Mr. Dockter was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Schwindt of near Zeeland. Nine children were born to them, three of which died in infancy. Mrs. Ida Sayler of Linton; Mrs. Rebecca Fuehrer of Herreid; Calvin of Venturia; Mrs. Mary Moos of Greenway; Mrs. Olga Dobler, Long Beach, California and Cornelius of Bakersfield, Connecticut.

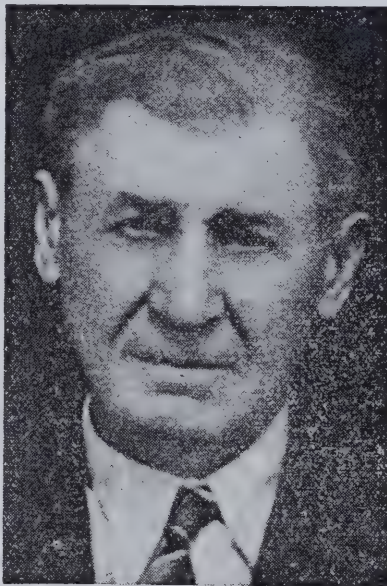
In 1919 the family moved from the homestead to a farm nearer to Venturia and in 1928 Mr. Dockter traded the farm for a store in Venturia. This business he managed until his retirement in 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Dockter still reside in Venturia and are members of the Reformed church.

GOTTLIEB DOCKTER, JR.

Gottlieb Dockter, Jr. was born November 8, 1866 in South Russia, a son of Gottlieb Dockter and wife Magdalena. At the age of 17 he accompanied his parents to this country, settling with them on a farm in the vicinity of Menno, S. Dak. Four years later the family moved northward to settle near Ashley, N. Dak.

In 1889 the young man exchanged marriage vows with Eva Lehr. Their only child living is Gottlieb G. Dockter. Three children preceded the parents in death. The death of the mother followed shortly. In 1895 Christina Vilhauer became his second wife, to which union five sons and five daughters were born. His children of second wife are: Mrs. Gust (Eva) Helm; Mrs. Andrew (Magdalena) Haas; Mrs. Rudolf (Christina) Baumann; Albert, married to Lydia Thurn; Emil, married to Albana Hochhalter; Julius, married to Helen Ash; Leopold, married to Martha Schlepp; Edwin, married to Elisabeth Schmierer; Mrs. Ted (Lea) Pfeifle, and Mrs. Art (Ella) Odenbacher.



Gottlieb Dockter, Jr. passed away at the age of 83. Funeral services took place June 12 in the Reformed church near Venturia. The Rev. K. Krueger of Upham, N. Dak. officiated. Burial was made in the cemetery of the church.

MR. AND MRS. GOTTLIEB KRAUSE

Gottlieb and Bertha Krause were born in McIntosh county. Their first farm was in Campbell county four miles southwest of Greenway, S. Dak. After moving to various places and farms they moved to the Gottlieb Krause, Sr. farm, six and one-half miles southwest of Venturia where they remained for twenty-three years. During their stay there they were members of Venturia Baptist church at the Bertsch station.

To this union were born nine children: Alvin Krause, Lodi, Calif.; Hulda Bertsch, Lodi, Calif.; Gideon and William, Ellendale, N. Dak.; Marcella and Benjamin, Ypsilanti, Mich.; Lenhart and Nadine, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Isadore, deceased.

On April 5, 1940 they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. It was celebrated on the farm near Venturia.

At the present time, they are residing in Ellendale, N. Dak.

MR. AND MRS. ANDREW HOFF, SR.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hoff, Sr. came from Kassel, South Russia in the year of 1878 and made their first stop at Tyndall, S. Dak., where they lived one year. They then moved to a farm near Long Lake, S. Dak., where they lived for 29 years. Their house was made of sod and the barn of wood. On this farm they raised mostly cattle and used to milk 23 cows twice a day. Their crop was hailed out every year for six consecutive years.

In 1907 the Hoff's moved to a farm located two miles west and one-half mile north of Venturia. Here, too, their house was of sod and the barn was also of sod which was built in connection with the house. Later a

frame house was built and many farm buildings added as the need arose.

The Hoff's lived on this farm until 1920 when they retired and moved to Venturia. Mr. Hoff died in the spring of 1923 and Mrs. Hoff passed away in the fall of 1941.

As the Hoff children look back through the long years of progress of Venturia and McIntosh county they can only say that we have a most merciful God, praise be to His name.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoff were the parents of sixteen children, seven of whom died in infancy. The remaining nine are as follows: Andrew, of Aberdeen; Mrs. Jacob Blumhart, Fred, Henry, John, and Mrs. Richard Schrenk,



all of Venturia; Mrs. Eva Kapp, of Medina, N. Dak.; Jacob, of Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Magdalena Munch, of Seattle, Wash.

MR. AND MRS. ADAM S. HAAS

Adam S. Haas, son of George and Katherina Haas, nee Knoll, was born in Menno, S. Dak. on January 11, 1885. In 1887 he



moved with his parents to North Dakota on a homestead one-half mile west of Venturia, where he worked with his parents on the farm during his boyhood years. He attended country school.

Having grown to manhood he was married to Sophia Woehl of Wishek, on December 20, 1907. She was born at Lichtenfeld, South Russia on April 4, 1886, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Woehl and Margaret Woehl, nee Brenneise. She came to America with her parents when she was three years old and first settled near Eureka, S. Dak. Two years later, in October of 1889, they located 16 miles southwest of Wishek, where she grew to womanhood.

They are the parents of three children, one daughter and two sons. They are Relina, Mrs. Arthur Breitling; Albert and Leon. All three reside near Venturia on their farms.

Mr. and Mrs. Haas, in the year 1908, operated a farm five miles northwest of Venturia. Their first house was a small school house and barn. After 36 years on that farm, they retired in the year 1944 and moved to Ashley.

They and their children belong to the Baptist church.

They were leaders in the Venturia Baptist church and hard workers for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Haas still reside in Ashley in the western part of town.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN J. THURN

John J. Thurn, the son of John Thurn, Sr. and Barbara, nee Schnabel, was born in McIntosh county on his parents farm on March 28, 1866. He was married to Katharina Wanner, daughter of Jacob and Christina Wanner, nee Martel, on November 30, 1909.

In the year before their marriage Mr. Thurn had laid claim to a homestead in Perkins county, S. Dak. near the town of Faith.



The newly married couple spent the winter with their parents and in May, 1910, they departed to their new home across the Missouri river. The crops were very poor for two years and in 1912 they returned to their home community and began farming anew.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurn retired in 1946 and moved to Wishek. Their farm was turned over to their son Jacob.

The Thurns are of the Lutheran faith and Mr. Thurn served the Jacobus congregation, west of Wishek, as deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also was a director of Friedens School District No. 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurn are the parents of seven children: Ida Marie (Mrs. Theodore Woehl); Otto Paul, a veteran of World War II, killed in action in France, July 27, 1944; Esther (Mrs. Simon Rueb); Adam Jacob, Alvin Gottlieb, Lydia (Mrs. Martin Hagel); and Wilma, at home.

JACOB JOACHIM

Jacob Joachim, eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Joachim, was born in Russia on January 6, 1883 and came to the United States in 1884 with his parents. The Joachims



settled on a farm eight miles south of Venturia and here Mr. Joachim grew to manhood. In 1906 he and his wife Katherina Wagner settled on a farm five miles southwest of Venturia where they lived until the fall of 1944 when they retired and moved to Venturia. Mr. Joachim passed away on December 24, 1947 and his widow continues to live in her Venturia home. The Joachims had eight children, six of which are living. Enoch passed away in infancy and Rudolph was killed accidentally in April of this year. Their son Otto is farming on the homestead. Esther (Mrs. John Jenner); Hulda, (Mrs. Edward Jenner); Bertha (Mrs. Bennie Bender); Anna (Mrs. Christian Bender) all of rural Ashley and Olga (Mrs. Rheinhold Jerke) of Fargo.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB BLUMHARDT



Two of the early McIntosh county pioneers who have seen this section grow from wilderness into big towns and farms were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Blumhardt, coming here with pride and joy for their farming in America.

Jacob Blumhardt was born in Russia on December 6, 1878. Came to America with his parents on a ship in the year 1884, age six years. He was helping farming with his parents 13 miles east of Eureka, S. Dak. until the age of 22 (1901), when he was united in marriage with Christine Hoff by Rev. Gulte at Eureka, S. Dak. At that time there were no churches, so the marriage took place in the pastor's house. That same year they moved up north four miles west of Venturia, N. Dak. in a two-room sod house.

In 1918 they bought some more land and built a new farm a little south of the place they were living before. They moved to town in the year 1943 when they decided to settle down.

While on the farm in the early days they had very hard tasks to go through to earn something for their living. They had to walk many miles to water the cows and horses. They had three cows and three horses and a few chickens to start out. Food prices were quite high at that time. Flour was \$3.00 a hundred. Sugar, \$5.00 a hundred. They sold no wheat or other grain the first few years. They had a new Overland car, but that was to be saved for the most important things to do, so they used the wagon and horses which was the cheaper way to do the shopping. The only town to shop was Eureka, where they went two or three times a year.

Mrs. Blumhardt was born in Scotland, S. Dak. on June 25, 1878. When she was one year old she moved with her parents 18 miles east of Eureka, S. Dak. and there she helped farm until her marriage.

They are the parents of ten children, three preceded in death. Those who are living are: Emma (Mrs. Gottlieb Dollinger), Ashley, N. Dak.; Edward, farming near Venturia, N. Dak.;

Magdalena (Mrs. Gideon Dobler), Ashley, N. Dak.; Henry, farming near Venturia, N. Dak.; Lydia (Mrs. Ted Giedt), Glyndon, Minn.; Esther (Mrs. Fred Strobel), Fargo, N. Dak.; Frieda (Mrs. Clifford Hummel), Venturia, N. Dak.

JOHN WIEDMANN

John Wiedmann has been a resident of Venturia for the past fifty years and is still in business. Mr. Wiedmann was born in South Russia, one-half mile from the Black Sea, May 25, 1880. At the age of ten he



came to America with his parents who settled on a farm a half mile west of Venturia. He taught a nearby school from 1899 to 1906.

In 1906 his brothers Jacob and John began the first hardware and furniture store in Venturia. This business is still in existence. Mr. Wiedmann was an official of the village of Venturia for a great number of years, serving as village clerk for the board of trustees and village assessor which he is serving at the present time. He also served as a member of the school directors and clerk of the school board.

In 1916 he was appointed to the Venturia postoffice, which is in the same building as the hardware store. For the past thirty-five years he served the community as its postmaster. Since last May he has been retired at the age of seventy.

He is a faith member of the Venturia Baptist church. He has served as church trustee for a number of years and also Sunday school treasurer for 30 years.

His wife, Katherine Haas, is also a faithful worker in her church and is one of the three remaining charter members of the Women's Missionary Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiedmann were married January 23, 1906. They had three daughters. In 1925 Mr. Wiedmann built a comfortable home where he and his wife reside.

MR. AND MRS. CHRISTIAN DOCKTER

Christian Dockter is the son of Gottlieb Dockter and his wife, Magdalena, nee Bender. He was born on August 12, 1877 in Neudorf, South Russia.

Mr. Dockter came to this country with his parents in the spring of 1885 and lived at Menno, S. Dak. for four years and then moved to McIntosh county.

His wife, Barbara (Rieger) Dockter, was born in South Russia on March 28, 1883, and was married to Mr. Dockter on November 19, 1901. The couple then homesteaded about one and one-half miles northeast of Venturia. They lived there four years then sold the homestead and bought some land 15 miles northwest of Venturia. They lived there over the winter months, then moved to Venturia. There Mr. Dockter was engaged in business for a few years.

In 1917 Mr. Dockter was elected as sheriff of McIntosh county. Then he and his wife moved to Ashley, living there until 1926 when they moved to Wishek.



One child was reared in their home, Wilma Barbara, who was born on September 7, 1920.

Mr. Dockter is a practical bone setter, and is a staunch supporter of the Wishek Reformed church.

MR. AND MRS. AUGUST DOCKTER

August Dockter is the son of Gottlieb Dockter and his wife, Magdalena, nee Bender. He was born on May 16, 1882 in Neudorf, South Russia.

Mr. Dockter came to this country with his parents in the spring of 1885 and lived at Menno, S. Dak. for four years and then moved to McIntosh county.

His wife, Katharina (Stroh) Dockter, was born in South Russia on January 10, 1886, and she was married to Mr. Dockter on January 17, 1904. The couple then settled one and one-half miles north of Venturia, on



Mr. Dockter's parents farm. In 1906 they bought the farm from their folks and farmed until 1922, when Mr. Dockter and the family moved to Venturia. There Mr. Dockter was engaged in business for a few years. In 1935 Mr. Dockter moved back to his farm and farmed until he sold his farm to his son, Otto A. Dockter in 1943. He lived with his son until 1948, when he moved to Venturia, living there six months before he passed away.

To this union 10 children were born, one of whom died. Those living are: Mrs. Gott-hilf (Lydia) Mehlhaff; Mrs. Herbert (Martha) Mehlhaff, and David, all living at Eureka, S. Dak.; Mrs. Andrew (Bertha) Delzer, living at Ashley; Otto, August F., Mrs. Joachim (Magdalena) Ritter, Mrs. Alvin (Wohla) Dockter, and Mrs. Henry (Hulda) Ritter, all living at Venturia.

Mr. Dockter was a member of the Johnstown school board for nine years, and a deacon in the Reformed church for about 20 years. Mr. Dockter was a staunch supporter of the Venturia Reformed church.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stoltz

GOTTFRIED GOLZ

X Mr. Golz came to America in 1886 with his parents at the age of one year. He lived in McPherson County, S. Dak.

Mr. Golz was born March 21, 1885 in South Russia, a son of Johannas Golz and Christina, nee Obenauer.



Mr. Golz then met and married Carolina Dewald daughter of Daniel Dewald and Eva, nee Scheuffle on February 1, 1906.

Mrs. Golz was born May 13, 1887 in Russia, came to America in November 1905 and lived in McPherson County, S. Dak.

After they were married they moved to North Dakota on a farm seven miles north of Venturia where they started farming with two cows, one heifer, 25 chickens, a rake, a hand plow and four horses. They built a house, 12x24. In 1914 they built another house which at the present time is still on the farm. They also made a wagon out of a few pieces of wood.

Eggs were six cents a dozen and butter was four cents a pound.

Mr. Golz obtained 160 acres of land through the homestead act. Dug a well, but had to dig three or four wells before obtaining water.

X Mr. and Mrs. Golz are parents of ten children of whom nine are still living. Emelia at Ashley, born on February 4, 1907, married Gottlieb Pfeifle; Anna at Venturia, born August 21, 1908, married August Haupt; Edward at Venturia, born October 6, 1911, married Katherina Saylor; Adolph at Aberdeen, born June 25, 1913, married Martha Marzolf; Frieda at Lodi, California, born September 17, 1915, married Albert Permann; Rudolph at Aberdeen, born June 19, 1918, married Florence Marzolf; Walter at Aberdeen, born December 29, 1920, married to Viola Bader; Tobeia, born October 21, 1922, died February 15, 1924; Thomas at Venturia, born June 12, 1926, married Elvina Buchholz; Esther at Aberdeen, born August 22, 1930, married Harry Woehl.

X Mr. and Mrs. Golz lived on the farm for 39 years and then decided to move to Wishek.

After spending a year in Wishek they moved back to the farm. They lived there one more year and then moved to Ashley where they are living at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Golz are faithful members of the Zion Lutheran church of Ashley.

They are the grandparents of 26 grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. OTTO A. DOCKTER

Otto A. Dockter is the son of August Dockter and his wife, Katharina, nee Stroh. He was born on November 11, 1909, on his father's farm one and one-half miles north of Venturia, N. Dak. X

His wife, Pauline (Hirning) Dockter, was born on August 1, 1912 near Hague, N. Dak. and she was married to Mr. Dockter on February 18, 1934.

The couple then started to farm on his father's farm. In 1935 his folks moved from Venturia to the farm. Mr. Dockter and his father farmed on partnership base until 1943, from then Mr. Dockter has the distinction of being the owner of the farm that his grandfather homesteaded. X

Mr. Dockter's father and mother lived with their son Otto until October, 1948. His mother is living with him at the present. In 1945 Mr. Dockter's brother returned from the armed services and then the two brothers started out partnership farming.

Mr. Dockter is president of the Johnstown school board, and a member of the Venturia Reformed church.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dockter, one of whom died in infancy. Rachel is with her parents and is attending the Venturia Public School. X



MR. AND MRS. HENRY HAGEL

Henry Hagel is the son of Peter Hagel and his wife Carolina, nee Sattler. Mr. Hagel was born on November 27, 1880 in Kassel, South Russia and came to this country with his parents in 1894. They settled in McIntosh county about 25 miles northwest of Venturia. Mr. Hagel bought some land about six miles northwest of Venturia in 1905 and lived on that farm for 40 years, then moved to the city of Wishek.

His wife, Maria (Strobel) Hagel, was born in McIntosh county on July 14, 1886. She was married to Mr. Hagel on January 14, 1906. There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hagel: Arthur, living at Jamestown; Mrs. Roy (Martha) Schnabel, Venturia; Gideon, Venturia; Ernest, Moorhead, Minn.; and Palma, Mrs. Gehring, of Bismarck.

Mr. Hagel was a member of the school board in Albrights Valley for eight years; president of the Sunday school; deacon, secretary and a member of the Baptist church since 1918.

The first business Mr. Hagel did in Venturia was when he bought lumber to build his farm buildings. Jacob Hochstetter was the salesman.

HISTORY OF MRS. KATHERINA KNOLL AND DAUGHTER

Katherina Sattler Knoll was born on April 10, 1833 in Kassel, South Russia. Her husband, George Knoll died and the times were very poor so they sold their belongings and with the three children she left for America. When they arrived at the border, the son, Jacob Knoll had to return as was the custom in Russia to train in the army. He came to the U. S. at a later date. They left Russia in November 1885 and arrived at New York in December. They came on to Tyndal, S. Dak., and stayed with her brothers, sister and

mother until spring and then came north settling eight miles northwest of Venturia. One daughter, Katherina, and the mother homesteaded 160 acres of land on which was built a two room sod house

The times were also very poor here so the daughter worked as a maid for a very small sum of money.

Most of the traveling at that time was by foot, they used to walk to Lake Hoskins, which at that time was where Ashley was located, to do their shopping.

The daughter was married to Fred Helm of Cathay, N. Dak. on February 23, 1892 at Eureka, by Rev. August Zimmerman. The mother, too old to carry on alone, gave the land to her son and stayed with the children.

**Mrs. Katherina Knoll****Mr. and Mrs. Fred Helm**

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JACOB SCHNABEL

X Jacob Schnabel was born on December 3, 1882 at Gluecksthal, South Russia. He came to the United States in 1889, arriving at Eureka, S. Dak. with his parents on April 27. They came on the newly constructed Milwaukee Railroad. Immigrants in those days were not accustomed to staying in hotels and such housing facilities were scarce, so they were generally met at the train by relatives or friends who preceded them to this country. The immigrants usually made temporary abode with their friends until they were permanently located. At the age of 21 Mr. Schnabel homesteaded on section 35; township 130; range 72. At the age of 23, on January 16, 1906 he married Katherina Bender at the Kassel Baptist church by Rev. Christian Bishop. Two children were born to this union. The daughter died in infancy and the son,



Berthold Schnabel, a barber in Venturia. Mr. Schnabel stayed on the farm until 1919 and then moved to town where he was engaged as a cream buyer. In February of 1926, the son went into business with his father and they now operate a hardware and implement shop in connection with the barber shop.

X Mr. and Mrs. Schnabel are members of the Venturia Baptist church; he was church treasurer for 24 years; Sunday school president for many years; and served on the town board for several years.

MR. AND MRS. FRED K. BENDER

X Fred K. Bender is the son of Valentine Bender and his wife Christina, nee Boschee. He was born on April 2, 1889 in Kassel, South Russia. Mr. Bender came to this country in March, 1892, and lived at Hosmer, S. Dak. for 16 years. He then moved to McIntosh county in 1912 and bought some land seven miles north of Venturia, which he began farming and farmed the land for 39 years.



His wife, Amelia (Miller) Bender, was born on January 9, 1890 and was married to Mr. Bender in March, 1914. X

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bender: Walter, Martha, Arthur and Irene, all living north of Venturia. One child died in infancy. X

MR. AND MRS. JACOB ROTH

Among the well known McIntosh County pioneers was Mr. Jacob Roth, who was born in Neusatz, South Russia on April 11, 1871. He was a son of Christian and Elizabeth Roth, and he came to the United States with his parents. X

When he was 19 years of age Mr. Roth filed on a homestead two miles north and three miles west of Venturia, on which he lived as a bachelor until the year 1896 when he was united in marriage to Karoline Hagel, daughter of Peter Hagel. They farmed until 1940 when they retired and moved to Ashley. Mr. Roth died on June 12, 1943 at the age of 73. Mrs. Roth then moved to Washington where she is still living.

X Mrs. Jacob Roth was also born in Russia and came to the U. S. with her parents and lived on a farm 16 miles southwest of Wishek until her marriage. X



MR. AND MRS. CHRIST G. DELZER

Coming to America in 1874, Christ G. Delzer located near Menno, Dakota territory. He was born in Johannesthal, South Russia on the 27th day of February, 1865. He filed on a homestead near Menno and later was united in marriage to Miss Friedericka Lange, who lived with her parents in the same community.



In 1889, again answering the call of the pioneer, he sold his homestead and came northward. They came to Eureka by rail and from there to Ashley by wagon and team. He filed on a tree claim and pre-emption. This land being about ten miles west of Ashley and about one mile from the present site of the town of Venturia. After building a sod and frame "shanty", as they spoke of it and a shelter for the cattle, the next thing to build was an oven. Up to now they had been doing their cooking out in the open, having dug a hole in the ground and the fire built in it. The oven was made of clay and stones. Hay, weeds or anything that would burn was used as fuel. Lumber was hauled from Eureka, from which benches and tables were made, and occasionally a trunk or dresser. The first dresser that Christ Delzer made is still in use and in the possession of his son, Gottlieb. Plowing was done with a hand plow, drawn by oxen and horses. Seed was sown by hand and the grain cut with a hand scythe. When it was ready to thresh, it was spread on the ground and the oxen driven over it. The chaff was either blown out by the wind or separated by hand.

Eureka was their nearest town and it took at least two days to make a trip. This family, as did nearly all the early pioneers, gathered buffalo bones. These they hauled to town and sold for eight to ten dollars per load and the necessities of life purchased. Bran was used by this family for bread. Flour was a luxury, and when it was bought it was third or fourth grade.

They experienced an Indian scare in the

early nineties. When the report came that the Indians were on the war path, the Delzers decided to pack all their belongings and go back to Menno. Everything was loaded in the wagon and Mrs. Delzer the children and an aunt were to drive to Eureka and wait there for the father and the uncle, who were to follow with the cattle and a few sheep they had. The women and children spent the night at Eureka and were very much alarmed in the morning because their men folks had not arrived. Not realizing the time it would take to drive cattle and sheep that distance, they started back to see what had happened. They met the men about half way, telling them it was a false alarm about the Indians, so they decided to go back to McIntosh county and their little home.

Mr. and Mrs. Delzer were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are living, namely: Gottlieb, Ashley; Rosina, now Mrs. Engel, Venturia; Barbara, now Mrs. Saylor, Underwood, N. Dak.; Carl, Bismarck; Friedericka, now Mrs. Ed. Buchholz, Ashley; Emma, now Mrs. Dohn, Venturia; Andrew, Ashley; Henry, Bismarck; Gust, Herreid, S. Dak., and Emil, Ashley. Theodore and Christian C. have passed away.

Mr. Delzer died on November 29, 1931 and was laid to rest in the Baptist cemetery at Venturia, N. Dak. Mrs. Delzer passed away on September 15, 1935, and was buried beside her husband.

MR. AND MRS. CONRAD PFEIFLE

Conrad Pfeifle is the son of Karl Conrad Pfeifle and his wife, Caroline Pfeifle, nee Weixel. He was born on October 9, 1875 in Friedensthal, South Russia. Mr. Pfeifle came to this country with his parents in 1876.

His wife, Dorteia (Weisenburger) Pfeifle, was born on December 7, 1878 in Columbus, Nebraska.

The couple then settled on a farm six miles south of Venturia after their marriage and lived on the farm until their retirement at quite an old age.



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE RITTER

George Ritter was born on August 28, 1886 in McPherson County. His parents John and Fredricka (nee Strobel) lived on a farm seven miles north of Eureka, S. Dak. Here Mr. Ritter grew up helping his parents with the farm work until the year of 1908 when he took up a homestead four miles west and one mile south of Venturia. He broke the soil with a hand plow. After the crop was in, the work on the farm buildings was started.

On January 30, 1910 he was married to Magdalena Kiesz. She was born on February 10, 1889 in Glueckstal, South Russia and was the daughter of Jacob and Magdalena Kiesz. In the year 1903 she came to America with her mother, sisters and brothers. They took up a homestead at Long Lake, S. Dak.,



where she helped with the farm work until 1906 when she was asked to work for Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bieber. Here she was employed until the time of her marriage to Mr. Ritter. Together they started farming on the homestead and year after year purchased more land.

In the summer of 1944 they decided to retire from farming. They then purchased a house in Venturia. On November 1 of that year they moved their belongings to the house where they still reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritter are the parents of four children, Arthur, farming at Enderlin, N. Dak.; Henry, farming on the old homestead; Helen, Mrs. Frank Klobuchor, Milwaukee, Wisc.; and Reinhold, a trucker in Venturia.

The Ritters are members of the Zion Lutheran church in Venturia. Mrs. Ritter is a charter member of the ladies aid.

Mr. Ritter served as school director for 21 years.

PETER SCHNABEL SR.

Peter Schnabel, Sr. was born in Glueckstal, South Russia on March 1, 1848. He came to Eureka, S. Dak. on April 27, 1889 and settled on a homestead northwest of Venturia. In the year 1869 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Haushauer and to this union ten children were born of which only three are living at the present time: Jacob of Venturia, Mrs. Martin Bender of Aberdeen, S. Dak. and Mrs. Karl Delzer of Bismarck, N. Dak.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schnabel retired in 1909 and moved to Venturia where they made their home until their death. Mr. Schnabel was a charter member of the Venturia Baptist church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schnabel passed away.

MR. AND MRS. BERNARD B. KASEMAN

Bernard B. Kaseman was born in McIntosh county on November 13, 1890. He is a son of Bernard Kaseman and Pauline Kaseman, nee Hepper.

Mr. Kaseman was united in marriage to Miss Emma Diede of Greenway, S. Dak. on January 29, 1913. Rev. Wm. Butschat read the marriage ceremony.



The young Kaseman's spent the remaining winter months with Mr. Kaseman's par-

ents and on March 15, 1913 they moved into their own house which was on the lone prairie. During the month of June of that year Mr. Kaseman moved the house to its present site; built a barn; fenced his land and Jacob Diede and Michael Lutz of Greenway, S. Dak. dug a well for Mr. Kaseman. Here Mr. and Mrs. Kaseman lived for 34 years and then moved to Wishek. This year they returned to their farm again.

Mr. Kaseman began his farm career with four horses and a wagon. That same summer he purchased a buggy which served his purpose until 1917 when he bought a Ford car.

Mr. Kaseman's crop of 1913 amounted to 797 bushels of wheat which sold for 69 cents a bushel.

In the fall of 1913 a hard coal stove was purchased for heat for the cold winter months ahead, but manure or cow chips were used for fuel for cooking purposes.

Mr. Kaseman is still very grateful to the businessmen of Venturia who always aided him when in need. His neighbors, too, were always kind and helpful. Mr. Kaseman still considers Venturia his home town and thinks McIntosh county is the best county in the state of North Dakota. He is very thankful that the good and gracious Lord has allowed him to live so long in such a progressive county of such a progressive state.

The children of the Kaseman's are: Milbert, Alma, Elmer and Walvin. Walvin is at the present time a resident of Venturia and buys grain for the Union Elevator.

MR. AND MRS. GOTTLIEB G. DOCKTER



Gottlieb G. Dockter, a son of Gottlieb Dockter, Jr., was born in McIntosh county on June 30, 1890. His wife, Philippina, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bender, was also born in this county on July 10, 1888.

Mr. and Mrs. Dockter were married on January 3, 1910 and on March 20, 1911 they

purchased a farm from George Barret which lies four miles north and two miles west of Venturia. The Dockter's lived on this farm until the fall of 1944 when they moved to Venturia. Their son, Alvin, carries on the work of the farm. The Dockter's have two daughters beside their son. They are: Mrs. William Kemmet and Mrs. Jacob Kemmet, both of Venturia.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN D. STROH

John D. Stroh, son of Jacob Stroh and his wife, Margaretha Stocker, was born on December 2, 1888 in South Russia. In 1893,

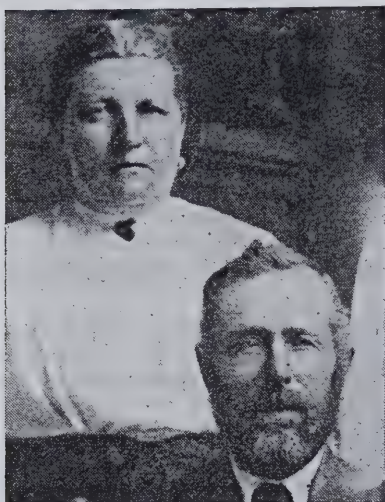


at the age of five years, he came to America with his mother, one brother, and two sisters.

On August 2, 1906 John was united in marriage to Eva Dockter, daughter of Jacob Dockter and Margaretha, nee Krein. The couple moved to Wishek where Mr. Stroh worked for the Herr Mercantile Co. In 1907 they moved back to Venturia and Mr. Stroh worked for his father-in-law in the store and other business places. In 1911 Mr. Stroh and his wife moved back to a farm two and one-half miles west of Wishek and lived on this farm until 1928, then the family moved to Wishek. In 1933 John accepted the position as butcher in the Herr Mercantile meat market.

There were ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stroh and are namely: August of Moberg, S. Dak.; Mrs. Martha Boschee of Linton; Arthur and Walter of Milan, Mich.; Mrs. Lydia Just, Enoch and Edwin of Wishek; Mrs. Atlanta Larson of California. Gideon and one infant child passed on to rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Stroh are active members of the Reformed church of Wishek.

MARTIN BENDER

Martin Bender, a son of John Bender, was born in Kassel, South Russia in the year of 1860. He was married to Christina Knoll in 1883 while still a native of Russia. A desire to see America and to make a new home they began their emigration to the United States. After traveling by water and rail they arrived at Tyndall, S. Dak. where they spent the winter of 1885. In the spring of 1886 they came to McIntosh County, settling on a farm six miles west and two miles north of Venturia. Here they farmed until the spring of 1928 when he moved to town and with his son, Ginthon, he operated a service station for three years at which time he sold his interest in the business. Mr. Bender passed away on July 3, 1931. His wife, who is past ninety, is still living and in good health. There were fifteen children of this union of which seven are dead. Those living are: Mrs. Jacob Schnabel, Mrs. Gottlieb Dockter, Mrs. Gottlieb Krause, Mrs. Edward Feiock, Mrs. Jacob Schrenk, Mrs. Jacob Krause, Martin and Samuel.

MR. AND MRS. ANDREW A. HOFF, JR.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew A. Hoff were both born in South Russia, Mr. Hoff on February 15, 1877, and Mrs. Hoff on March 3, 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoff were about six years old when they came to America with their parents. Mr. Hoff's parents settled near Long Lake, S. Dak., and Mrs. Hoff's parents near Wishek, N. Dak.

While living here in the Dakota's, life was simple. Houses were built of sod and stones. Machinery was very scarce and about all that was available was a hand plow.

After living in Dakota a number of years, Mr. Hoff was united in marriage to Christina Woehl. They made their own house with sod and stones. After the house was built the land was to be tilled for a crop. Crops were produced every year and the farm was enlarged and later built up to a modern farm.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoff, of which two girls died in infancy. Four are living, namely: Mrs. Oscar Herbold (Goldie) of Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Mrs. Sebastian J. Engelhart (Leah) of Barnard, S. Dak.; Otto and Tillie of Aberdeen, S. Dak.

The Hoff family lived on a farm west of Venturia for 45 years and for the same length of time were engaged in farming. They retired four years ago and moved to Aberdeen, S. Dak., where they reside at present.

MR. AND MRS. JULIUS DOCKTER

Julius Dockter is one of the six sons of Gottlieb Dockter Jr. and Christina, nee Vilhauer. He was born on May 3, 1906, on his father's farm a mile and a half west of Venturia.

He was married to Helen Esch, daughter of Henry Esch and Katy Esch, nee Helfenstein on August 10, 1926 by Rev. George L. Sprattler.

They continued to live with his parents for a year, then they moved two miles north of Venturia, where they are still making their home.



To them seven children were born. Florence Pearl who died as an infant; LeRoy at Minneapolis; Florence, Mrs. Arthur Rudolph at Napoleon; Stanley, who died as an infant; Gladys, Inez and Stanley Roger at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dockter are members of the Venturia Reformed Church.



The Karl Bertsch family shown above has the distinction of being the largest family in the Venturia area. Of eighteen children, 17 are living as of now. The parents enjoy life on the same farm they started out together 42 years ago.

KARL J. BERTSCH

Karl Bertsch was born in South Russia on June 6, 1883 and came to America with his parents in 1887.

Mrs. Bertsch, nee Christina Breitling, was born on a farm near Venturia on December 1, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertsch were united in holy matrimony on December 16, 1906 and they made farming their life work. The Bertsch's are still living on the same farm on which they have lived for 42 years.

Eighteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bertsch of which 17 are living. One child died in infancy. Incidentally, the Karl J. Bertsch family was the largest family in and around Venturia.

The children are as follows: Andrew at McLaughlin, S. Dak., Martin at Ashley, Timothy in California, Gideon in Idaho, Deborah, Mrs. Krause in California, Hulda, Mrs. Peter Hagel at Wishek, Esther, Mrs. Arlt at Ipswich, S. Dak., Aaron at Venturia, Asoph in California, Emma, Mrs. Wagner, in Idaho, David Bertsch of the U.S. Air Force in California, Lydia, Mrs. Zimmerman in California, Ida, Mrs. Gideon Hagel at Wishek, Martha, Mrs. Kramer in Alabama, Johnathan at McLaughlin, S. Dak., Norman at Venturia and Leonard in the U. S. Navy in California.

JOHN ROTH

John Roth was born on his father's farm five miles northwest of Venturia on September 7, 1887. He has recollections of pioneer days, when his father drove a pair of oxen while seeding his land. He still remembers how excited he was when the train came to Venturia the first time.

On November 25, 1909 he was united in marriage with Christina Rempfer and to this union six children were born, namely: Emma, now Mrs. E. F. Giedt, Browns Valley, Minn.; Hulda, now Mrs. Art Giedt, Venturia; Enoch,



living on a farm near Hoskins Lake; Thelma, now Mrs. Edwin Krause living in Eureka; Herbert, now County Superintendent of Schools of McIntosh County.

One son, Marvin, passed away in infancy. Mrs. Roth passed away in 1941. Mr. Roth married Mrs. Ed. Schaeffer and live in Ashley.

ADAM G. HAAS

Mrs. Christina Haas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tesky was born February 9, 1874 in South Russia. Christina came to America with her parents in 1885, they settled in South Dakota but a few years later moved to North Dakota and settled in McIntosh County. She was united in marriage to Adam G. Haas in the year of 1892.

Their first home was a sod house north of Zeeland which is known as the Beaver Creek settlement. At that time these pioneers suffered many hardships.

Mr. and Mrs. Haas had very little to start with, so by working hard and saving carefully they prospered. After living 14 years in Beaver Creek they moved to a farm three and one-half miles southwest of Venturia. Twenty-five years after their start at farming they retired and moved to Venturia. Her husband passed away in Venturia, February 24, 1937. Mrs. Haas is still a resident of Venturia.

Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Haas, namely: Asoph, now farming on the old farm three and one-half miles southwest of Venturia; Emma, Mrs. Gottlieb Iszler of Ashley; Otila Weber at Ashley; Samuel and Theodore at Lodi, Calif. A son, Adolph, died in 1950 and a daughter Pauline, wife of C. C. Delzer, died in 1928. Four of their children died in childhood.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN THURN, SR.

Mr. Thurn was the son of George Peter Thurn and Elizabeth, nee Schneidt. He was born on September 19, 1864, in Kassel, South Russia. In October, 1884, he left Russia with his brother Friederich and his brother-in-law, Friederich Meidinger, and Adam Meidinger. They spent the winter of that year near Menno, S. Dak., living with Fred Mehl-

haff and Daniel Schnabel. Here Mr. Thurn met his bride, Barbara Schnabel, and they were married on March 8, 1885. Mrs. Thurn was born in South Russia on September 16, 1864 and came to America with her father and brothers in 1874. They settled in South Dakota.

In April, 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Thurn came north, going to Ipswich by train and thence by wagon and team to Eureka and then Zeeland. After spending a few days looking for a suitable location they chose land, lying along the Beaver Creek, northwest of Venturia. John H. Wishek, Sr. helped Mr. Thurn to file his claim for land on May 21, 1885.

The lumber, to build his home which was part sod, was brought from Ipswich, S. Dak. by a team of oxen.

Nine children were born to the Thurns, namely: John J. of Wishek; Rosina, Mrs. Gott. J. Dockter, Venturia; Elizabeth, Mrs. Henry P. Wiest of Wishek; Christof at Ashley; Albert at Zeeland; Katherina, Mrs. Edward Just, Wishek; Andreas of Zeeland; Fred and Jacob died in infancy.

On December 6, 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Thurn retired and moved to Zeeland. Mr. Thurn passed away at Zeeland on October 15, 1942 and was buried in St. Andreas cemetery near Zeeland. The Thurns had been members of St. Andreas congregation since its founding in the year 1894. Mrs. Thurn, after her husband's death, made her home with her children in Wishek until her death on August 22, 1949.

FRED HUBER SR.

Fred Huber was born in South Russia, October 19, 1869 and when he was nearing his 20th birthday he decided to come to America. His destination was a few miles south of Venturia to be with his sister, Mrs. Adam Bertsch. Mr. Huber served as hired man at the Bertsch farm home for a period of three years when he was married to Elizabeth Bertsch in 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Huber established their new home southwest of Venturia where they lived until they retired and moved into town in the fall of 1936.

Two boys and four girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. Huber: Sophia Schrenk, Venturia, Lydia Diede, Huron, S. Dak., Magdalena Lang, Lehr, N. Dak., Bertha Delzer, Venturia, Fred, Venturia, and Arthur, Lodi, California.

Mrs. Huber passed away in 1940. He united in marriage in 1941 to Elizabeth Schrenk.

MR. AND MRS. PETER P. SCHNABEL

Among other earlier pioneers settling in McIntosh county is Peter P. Schnabel, the son of Peter and Elizabeth (nee Hausauer) Schnabel. Mr. Schnabel was born in Gluecksthal, South Russia on November 17, 1869. He came to America with his parents and arrived at Eureka, S. Dak. There they purchased a team of oxen and set forth to find their new home. The father took up land about eleven miles northwest of Venturia in section 23, township 130, range 72. This was in May 1889 and for several years Mr. Schnabel assisted his parents in trying to make a living. The Schnabel family was not blessed with very much in the way of goods and the oxen and other equipment owned by them were purchased on time. Mr. Schnabel told of no early hardships except that it was very hard to make ends meet. Crops were poor and work was hard to find.

On March 15, 1897 at Ashley, N. Dak. Mr. Schnabel was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Sattler. To this union six children were born, namely: Ella Ernst of Fargo, N. Dak.; Jacob P. Schnabel of Venturia; Theresa Schrenk of Spokane, Wash.; Roy Schnabel, farming near Venturia; and Margaret Strobel of Venturia. One son, Arthur, died in the fall of 1934.

After several years spent on their farm they retired and moved to Venturia. Mr. Schnabel had been a trustee of the village for seven years and was an officer on the school board for sixteen years.

In June, 1950, Mr. Schnabel died. He was laid to rest in the Baptist cemetery west of Venturia. They have been faithful members of the Baptist church. Mrs. Schnabel with her son, Jacob, still reside in Venturia.

MR. AND MRS. FREDERICH STROBEL, SR.

Among the first to settle in this part of McIntosh county were Mr. and Mrs. Frederich Strobel. Mr. Strobel was born in Gluecksthal, South Russia, October 3, 1850. He was married to Mena Rempfer in Russia, who passed away there. He then married Mrs. Caroline Strobel, nee Rempfer, born October 4, 1862 in Beresina, South Russia. Late in 1884 Mr. and Mrs. Strobel left Russia with John George Rempfer and George Rempfer, father and brother of Mrs. Strobel, and their three oldest children to come to America. They spent the first winter at Scotland, S. Dak.

On the first day of May, 1885 they arrived on their homestead six and one-half miles west of Venturia. Here Mr. Strobel lived



with his family when the town of Venturia was started in 1901. Venturia has been Mr. Strobel's home address as long as he lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Strobel were the parents of nine children. From first wife: Mrs. Henry Bieber, who passed away in 1933; Fred Strobel, Jr., now living at Victor, Calif.; Mrs. Wm. Dohn, Vida, Mont. Second wife: Mrs. Henry Hagel, Wishek, N. Dak.; Mrs. Emanuel Vossler, Ellendale, N. Dak.; Mrs. William Remmich, Vida, Mont., who passed away in 1944; Gust G. Strobel, Richey, Mont.; Mrs. Adam Remmich, Circle, Mont., and Art G. Strobel, now on the old home place.

In 1936 Mrs. Caroline Strobel passed away at the age of 74, and in 1943 Mr. Strobel passed away at the age of 93. Mr. and Mrs. Strobel were charter members of the Venturia Baptist church and were still members when they passed away.

WILLIAM MILLER

William Miller, son of Christian and Christina Miller, was born September 24, 1888 in McIntosh County. Mr. Miller lived with his parents until 1910 when he married Lydia Bender of Zeeland, N. Dak. Their home was established four miles northwest of Venturia where Mr. Miller spent his manhood days farming until 1941, when he moved to Venturia and since then does farming from town and in connection to this operates a repair shop in Venturia.

Three children were born to them: Esther, Mrs. Arthur Haas, Venturia; Hulda, Mrs. Ted Arlt, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Arthur, Ada, Minn.

Mrs. Miller passed away in 1919. The same year Mr. Miller married Dora Michaelsohn. Their children are: Viola, Mrs. Adolph Arlt, Venturia; Edward, Venturia, and Norman, a Baptist pastor at Hettinger, N. Dak.

Mrs. Dora Miller passed away in 1928. In 1929 he married Elizabeth Weisenburger.

EDWIN KRAUSE



Edwin Krause was born on August 16, 1912 on a farm seven miles west of Venturia. In the fall of 1921 he moved to Venturia with his parents where he completed grade school and then attended the Ashley high school from which he was graduated. He then furthered his education at the Normal and Industrial School of Ellendale. Later he taught rural schools for a number of years and then entered the farm machine business with Andrew A. Sayler in 1934. In 1944 the Sayler and Krause partnership dissolved and Edwin Krause took over the business which he ran alone until September 1946 when he sold out his implement business and moved to Eureka, S. Dak. where he is running a similar business.

While in Venturia Mr. Krause was Republican Committeeman from 1935 to 1946. He also was clerk of Johnstown School District for a period of eight years. In 1935 Mr. Krause married Thelma Roth, who lived on a farm five miles northwest of Venturia, and to them one son was born.

SAMUEL KRAUSE

Samuel Krause, better known as Sam, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Krause, who homesteaded six miles southwest of Venturia in the late eighties. At the time the Krause's settled near here, Eureka, S. Dak. was the nearest town. Samuel was born and reared on the farm and received his education in the old country school, beginning with the ABC Reader.

Sam remembers well when his parents made their first business trip to Venturia and how happy they were to have a town so near. The neighbors, as well as the Krause's, were thrilled when they heard of the coming of the railroad and they took such pride in their farms. Sam also recalls when the train became stalled in huge snow drifts and the old pioneers would come to help the train men "dig" out the train. Sam's mother often fed the train crew, workers, and passengers and if the bread would run low a neighbor gladly loaned a loaf or two.

Mrs. Krause was formerly Martha Woeszner.

For three years, from 1926 to 1929, Sam Krause had the bulk station agency for Standard Oil at Venturia and later was transferred to Ashley, N. Dak.

Mr. Krause owns a home in Lodi, Calif., where he and his family reside. In the summer Sam farms some land in Dickey county and returns to California for the winter months. His daughter, Lorraine, is married and living in California, and his son, Lloyd, is a student at the University of California at Berkeley.

ELIZABETH DOCKTER

Elizabeth Dockter, nee Schlepp, was born in Neudorf, South Russia on June 25, 1863. Her mother passed away in Russia and she came to this country with her father in the year of 1886.

They settled near Menno, S. Dak. and on January 22, 1888 she was united in marriage with Johann Dockter. Together they came to McIntosh county and took up a homestead a few miles northeast of Venturia where she helped to carry the burdens and hardships of the early days. To them seven children were born and those living are: John, Gustave, Theodore, Emma of Ashley and Phillip near Venturia. 8761

John Dockter, her husband, passed away on July 19, 1913 and on August 29, 1914 she married Jacob Dockter.

For twenty years she shared the joys and sorrows of her second marriage and on the first of November, 1934, her second husband passed away.

Mrs. Dockter continued to make her home in Venturia for several years and later moved to Ashley where she has an apartment in her son, John's, home. Mrs. Dockter is now 88 years old and is still able to care for herself and her daughter Emma.

Elizabeth Dockter, in her 88 years of life, has never been to a doctor and her eyesight and memory are still very good.



Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Saylor

HENRY DIEDE

X Mrs. Susanna Diede, nee Bertsch, was born in South Russia on the 22nd of December in 1885. She came to America in 1887 and located 12 miles north of Eureka. In 1905 she was married to Henry Diede who was born on January 24, 1879 and died in 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Diede farmed for five years after which they moved to Venturia and Mrs. Diede has lived in Venturia for forty-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Diede are parents of seven children of which three are living; Mrs. Henry Delzer of Bismarck; Mrs. Milton Zimmermann of Aberdeen and her son Ephriam still living at home.

DANIEL FUELLER

V When he was seventeen years old, Daniel Fueller accompanied his parents, George and Carolina Fueller, nee Hager, to America from South Russia where he was born on October 15, 1876. His family settled at Delmont, near Parkston, S. Dak. After remaining there a year and a half, they moved to Wells county, near Harvey, where his father filed on a homestead. Here he remained with his parents helping them to get established in their new home and working for others.

In 1898 he filed on a homestead of his own and was united in marriage to Lydia Arlt. A sod house was their first home and they suffered many hardships and trials.

A few years later they moved to Lehr and later to Venturia, where Mr. Fueller purchased a livery stable. After selling the livery stable, he engaged first in the meat market and later in the general merchandise business and after 18 years sold the business and retired.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fueller were the parents of five children: Bertha, Mrs. Fred Pfahl, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Christ Pfahl,

Glenwood, Minn.; Katie, (deceased), Mrs. John J. Jenner; Martha, Mrs. C. E. Wilkins, Fresno, Calif.; Pauline, Mrs. Arthur Tesky, Venturia.

Mrs. Fueller was called to her maker on November 22, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Fueller were members of the Baptist church.

In 1929 Mr. Fueller was united in marriage to Dorothea Haar. In 1940 Mr. Fueller was stricken with paralysis and was an invalid for about four years before he passed away on November 11, 1944.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB KEMMET

Jacob Kemmet was born at Gluecksthal, South Russia on September 18, 1871. His wife, Rosina Schilling, also of Gluecksthal, South Russia, was born on September 2, 1877. Rosina was the daughter of William and Sophia (nee Inje) Schilling. The young people grew up in Russia and in 1896 were married there. They came to America to establish their new home in 1898. Their first homestead was about 12 miles northeast of Zeeland. Later they moved to a farm 10 miles northwest of Venturia.

The began their hard and pioneering farm life with four horses and two cows. The first



new friends that they acquired were Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Ketterling and Mr. and Mrs. Mathais Maier.

To this pioneer family of Jacob Kemmet nine children were born, namely: Rosina (Mrs. Fred W. Thurn), who lives on a farm near Venturia; Jacob, who died in 1900; John, who died in 1946; Maria (Mrs. Gottlieb Walth, of Wishek; Jacob II, who lives on a farm near Venturia; Christian, who died in 1915; Edward, living on a farm near Venturia; Emma (Mrs. Andrew Rudolf), who died in 1947; and William, of Venturia.

Mr. and Mrs. Kemmet continued to live on their farm until Mr. Kemmet died in 1933. Mrs. Kemmet died in 1940.

JOHN FETZER

One of the later pioneers of Venturia was John Fetzer, born on February 3, 1883. He is the son of Henry and Katharina (Gruebele) Fetzer, originally of Neuborg, South Russia.

Mr. Fetzer came to this country in May of 1900 and went to Eureka, S. Dak. In 1902 he worked for Christ Gruebele, and in 1907 he filed claim to a homestead about nine miles northwest of Venturia. On November 10 he was married to Rosina Perman, daughter of Jacob and Katharina (Hoenger) Perman. To this union were born eight children, one of whom died. Those living are: Mrs. George (Lydia) Schilling, Mrs. Adam (Ida) Schilling, Wilhelm Fetzer, all of Venturia, N. Dak.; Mrs. Henry (Martha) Roth of Forbes, N. Dak.; Mrs. Harold (Anna) Smith of Stockton, Calif.; Mrs. Benny (Agnes) Motz of Lodi, Calif.; and Arthur Fetzer, in the army, stationed at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Fetzer was very successful in his occupation of farming, and owned 400 acres of land.

In 1931 Mrs. Fetzer died and on November 7, 1933 Mr. Fetzer married his second wife, Mrs. William Delzer. In 1936 Mr. Fetzer moved to California, coming back to Venturia after about six months. He lived near Venturia about four years and then moved to Wishek where he bought a home. Mr. Fetzer's second wife bore him a son, Clarence, who is now attending school.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN TRAUTMANN

John Trautmann was born in South Russia on January 22, 1883. In the year of 1887 he came to this country with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Trautmann. They homesteaded near Artas, S. Dak.

On December 17, 1908 John Trautmann was united in marriage to Susanna Wetzel. She was born in South Russia on December 17, 1886. On November 6, 1905 she came to this country with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wetzel, who settled near Zeeland, N. Dak.

In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Trautmann moved to a farm near Venturia, N. Dak. To this union nine children were born: Eugene on a ranch near Akaska, S. Dak.; Edmund, farming near Artas, S. Dak.; (Olinda), Mrs. Art Sulzle, living in Selby, S. Dak.; (Amanda), Mrs. Henry H. Orth, farming near Artas, S. Dak.; Theobald, employed at West Fargo, N. Dak.; Edgar, farming near Artas, S. Dak.; three children died in infancy.



Mr. and Mrs. Trautmann clearly remember the old pioneer days and hardships, when work was still done with oxen. Times were hard, but opportunity plentiful. So they progressed with the improving years, and live to see the 50th anniversary of this progressive community.

In 1950 they retired and moved from the farm at Venturia, N. Dak. to their home in Eureka, S. Dak.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD HAAS

Edward Haas, the second son of one of Venturia's oldest pioneer families, Mr. and Mrs. George Haas, was born on a farm one mile north of Venturia. His wife, Carolina Miller, a daughter of the Christian Miller pioneer family, was also born on a farm near Venturia.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haas were married in 1916 and together they established a farm home. The years were good to them and their farm grew until the drought of the 1930's. During this period man could not grow his own feed or seed for his yearly need and one farmer after another left his home to keep his livestock from starvation. Mr. Haas did not leave but trucked feed from other parts of the state for his stock. This, however, was very expensive and his cattle and machinery were mortgaged in order to carry on. This business was all transacted through the State Bank of Venturia.

The years of the 1940's were bountiful years and Mr. Haas was able to pay all of his delinquencies and build up his farm and stock again. This little incident was told just to show that the sons of the pioneers also had to cope with difficulties.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haas have four children: Herbert, still at home with his parents; the oldest son, Milton, is a Baptist minister in Texas; George, at Aberdeen, S. Dak.; and Elsie is married and lives in Shamrock, Texas.

GEORGE HAAS

Becoming dissatisfied with conditions in the country of their birth and with glowing reports of a new country where everyone could get free land, Mr. and Mrs. George Haas left Russia and emigrated to the United States arriving at Menno, S. Dak. on October 28, 1884.

Not being able to proceed further that fall they remained with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. William Hieb of Menno until the next spring and in May of 1885, came overland by ox team to McIntosh county settling on land Mr. Haas had filed on about a mile west of Venturia, N. Dak.

The Haas family had the usual hardships of all early pioneers, no machinery except a hand plow, a wagon and a harrow; however with the aid of the oxen and the plow and lots of hard work they were able to erect the usual sod buildings so common in those days; broke up about five acres for flax and potatoes.

Like many another early pioneer, about the only income the Haas family had is what they could make picking buffalo bones off

the prairie, hauling them to Ipswich, S. Dak. and receiving \$11.00 in trade for a wagon full.

Hail and drought took most of their crops the second year but by perseverance they managed to get along and eventually became quite well fixed. They continued farming after Mr. Haas died. Later in years his son Arthur took over.

Mr. Haas was united in marriage to Katharina Knoll by Rev. Becker and were both of Baptist faith. They were the parents of 11 children of whom nine are living, namely: Mrs. Katharine Wiedmann born October 23, 1882, Venturia, N. Dak.; Adam S. Haas, born January 11, 1885, Ashley, N. Dak.; Edward Haas born October 10, 1891; Venturia, N. Dak.; Andrew B. Haas born February 20, 1894; Venturia N. Dak.; Emma Knoll born March 17, 1898, Venturia, N. Dak.; Esther Hoff born November 29, 1899, Venturia, N. Dak.; Theophil Haas born December 22, 1901, Venturia, N. Dak.; Arthur Haas born April 14, 1905, Venturia, N. Dak.; and Abia Haas born June 2, 1910, Dallas, Oregon. Two children, a son, Daniel Haas, born October 8, 1888, and Lydia, born December 19, 1895, both passed away in early life. Mr. Haas died April 9, 1915. Mrs. Haas died May 16, 1942.

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Venturia, North Dakota

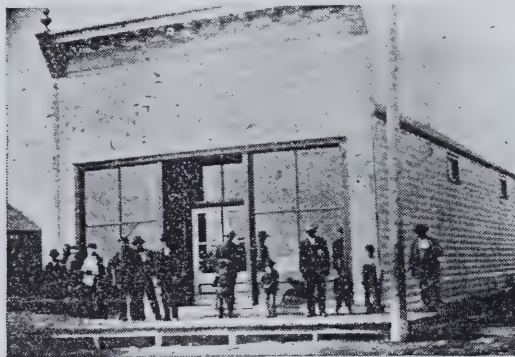
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GREETINGS

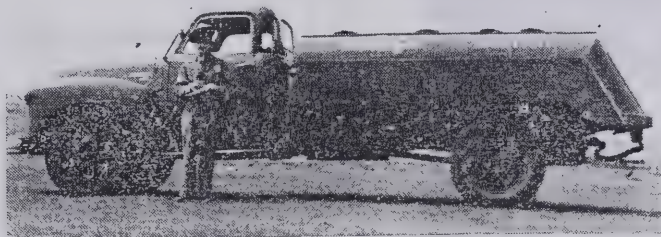
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K.B.Karns 2-3-1968

*Indexed
7-10-18, 1968
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